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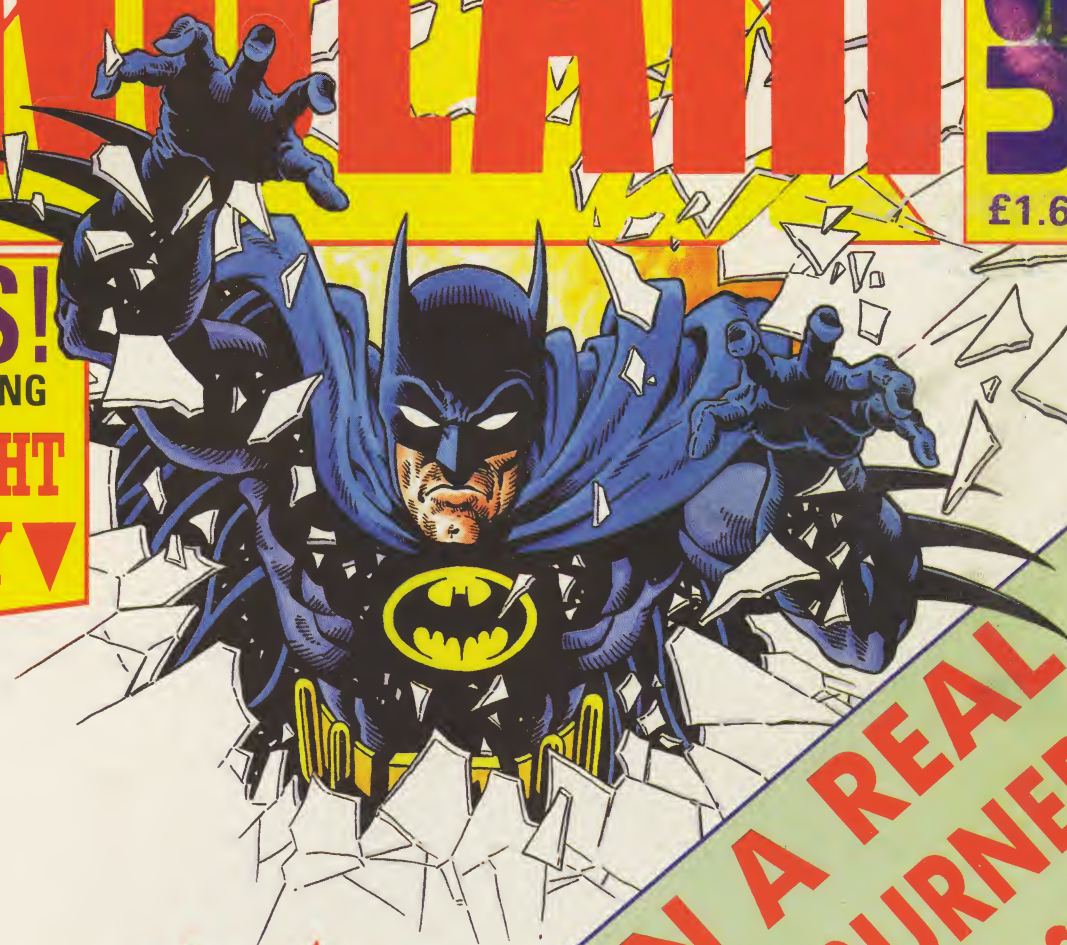
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3 GAMES!

DAVID JONES' AMAZING

MAGIC KNIGHT

▼ TRILOGY ▼



BATMAN
IS BACK

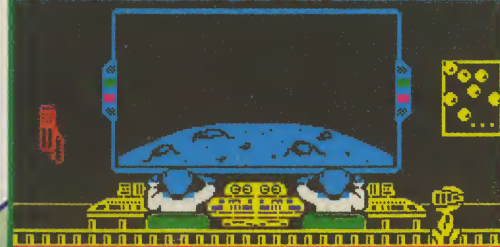
**WIN A REAL
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MACHINE! GASP!**



X-E-N-O-N
P-R-E-V-I-E-W-E-D

STARSHIP USS PISCES
LOCATION : BRIGHTSTAR

KNIGHT-TYME
THE BRIDGE



SIDE

A

**FINDERS KEEPERS
AND SPELLBOUND!!**

SIDE

B

**KNIGHT TYME PLUS
TECHNOCOP!**

FROM GREMLIN
PLAY THE FIRST LEVEL!

▼▼▼ INSIDE INFO ▼▼▼

REVIEWS: EXCLUSIVE! AFTERBURNER
BARBARIAN II R-TYPE TYPHOON PACMANIA
REX PLUS! DEAN THE BARBARIAN R.P.G.

SPECIAL
BONUS
THE CHEWITS
GAME

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"Not only has all the action and gameplay been captured, but so has the excitement, making it one of the most satisfying and compulsive shoot-em-ups to have appeared in a long time" ACE

"The non-stop action of the arcade original is replicated to a high degree" " . . . the resulting game is one which fans of the coin-op will love" Games Machine

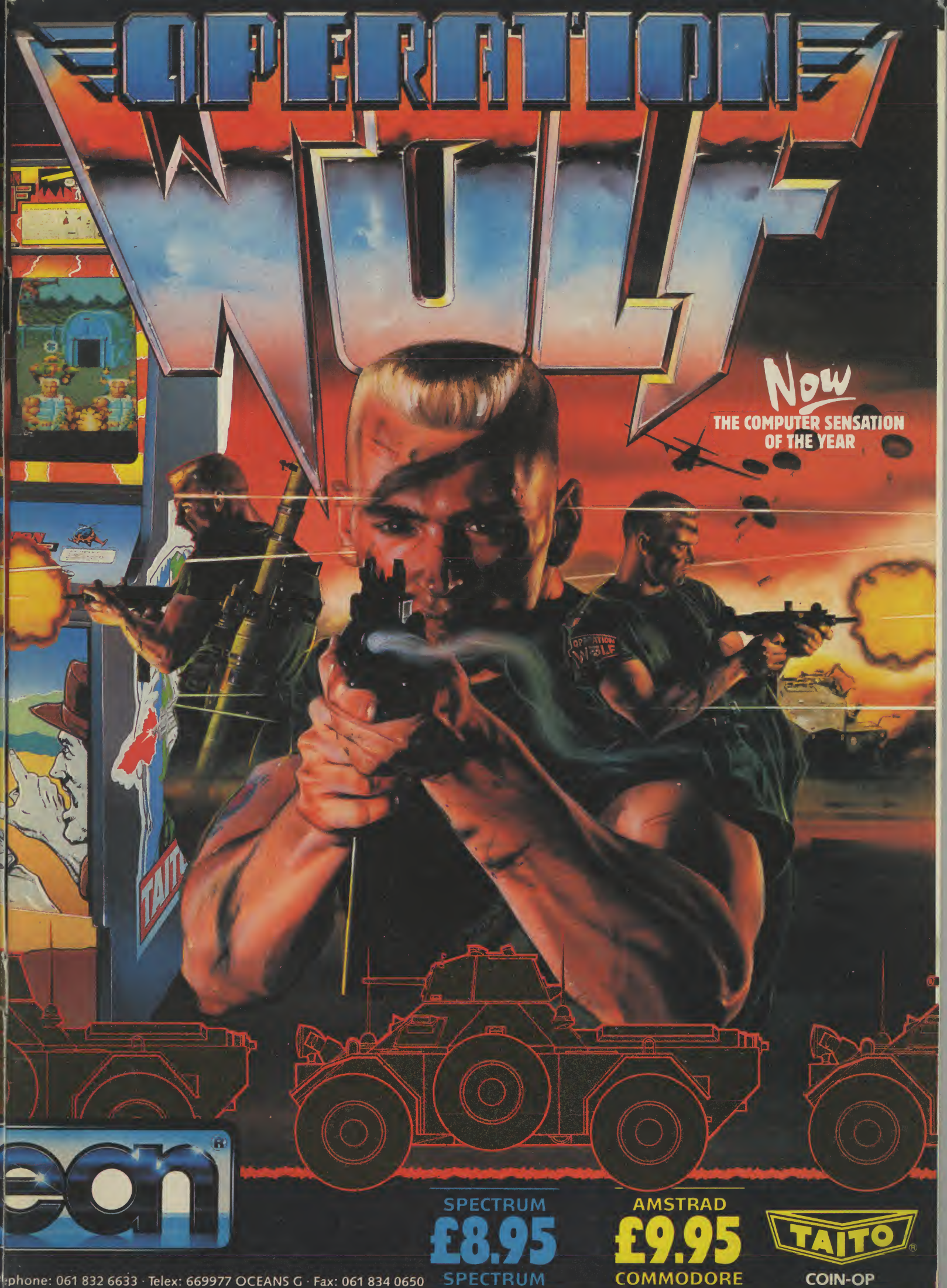


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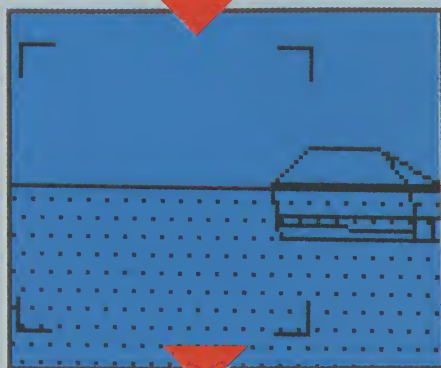
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BLUEPRINT 108

Carrier Command is one of the most sophisticated and action packed strategy games ever. We show you lots of pictures, look at the game in development and generally get enthusiastic about 'the game they said could not be converted.'



POSTER 66

Wouldn't ordinarily mention it except that it's completely brilliant this month. Just thought we'd mention it...



COMPETITIONS WIN AN AFTERBURNER 12 MACHINE!

Gaspl! Is this the best competition ever in the entire history of competitions? Probably.

POWER PYRAMIDS 37

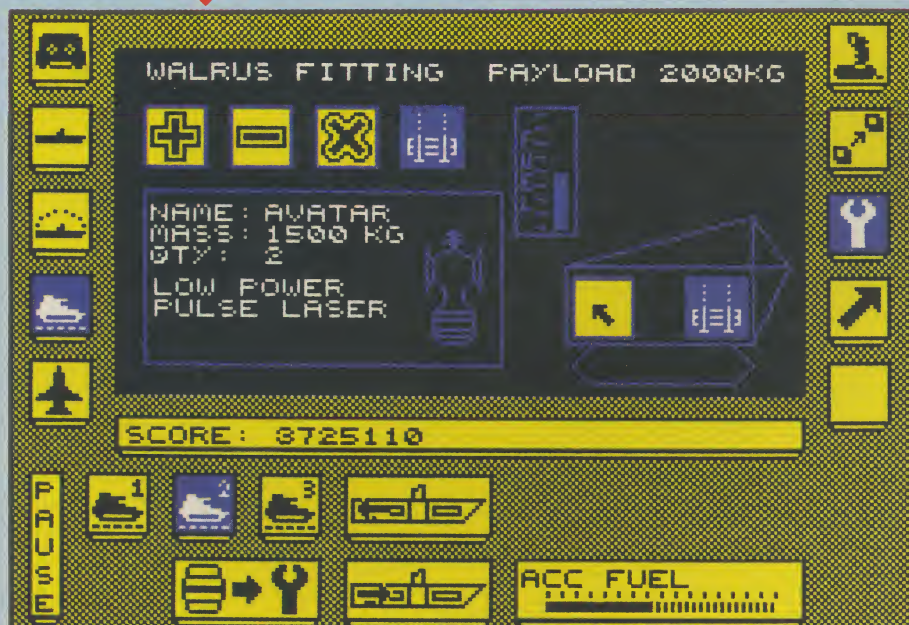
Win some peculiar mystical clock type things. Ooooooweeeeeeooooooooo.

COMPO ON TAPE THINGY 56

The awesomely brilliant Gremlin bring you 'compos on tape!' Unique! A boon! Mysterious! Nothing like any other game!

WIN A MOTORBIKE 76

Neeeeeeeeeeowwwwwwwwwww. To celebrate the imminent release of **Motorbike Madness** we've got a fabulous Motorbike kit for you.



SOFTWARE

ARCADE

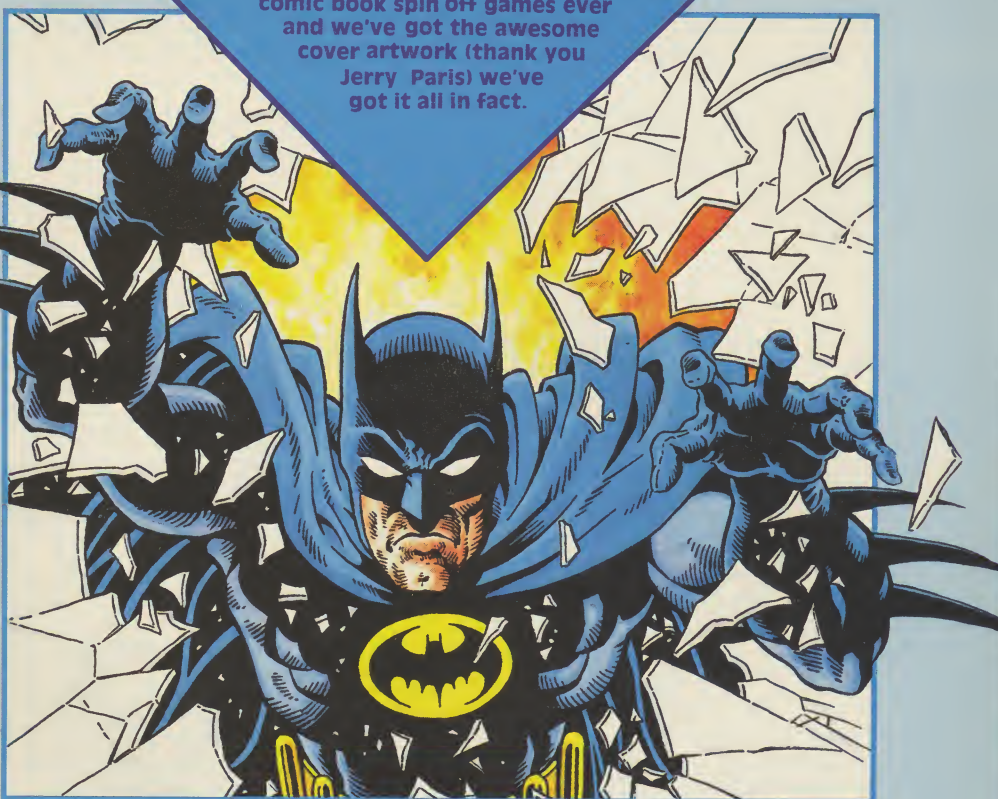
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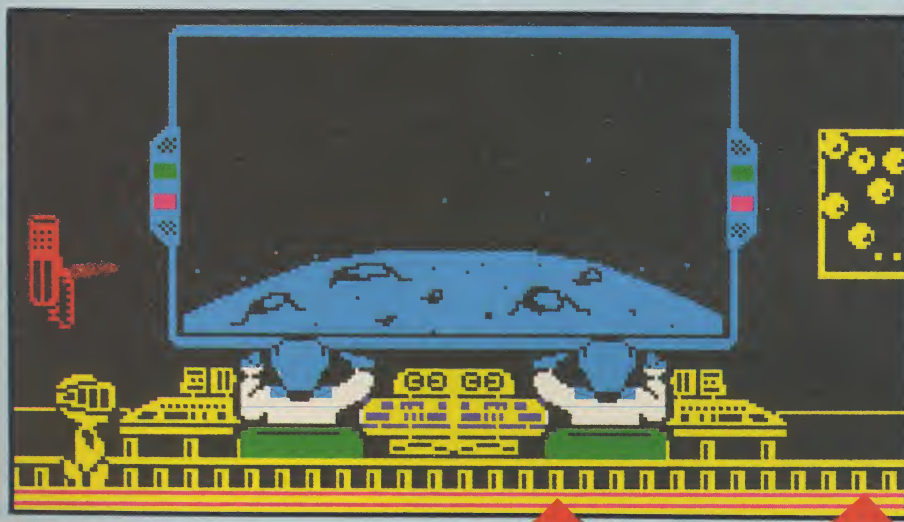
COVER GAME 112

Batman looks like being one of the best comic book spin off games ever and we've got the awesome cover artwork (thank you Jerry Paris) we've got it all in fact.



PREVIEWS 110

They just keep coming more up to the minute news on the very hottest games with the latest pictures. This month we've got some mouthwatering pictures of Xenon which looks amazingly like the ST original! And some early preview material on Eliminator from Hewson. Also Return of the Jedi and loads more...



DEAN THE 64 BARBARIAN

Why don't you do one of those boring choose the paragraph you read next adventure book type things someone said. "Leave it out guvnor" we said. Still never ones not to rip off a bad idea when we hear it we bring you... Dean the Barbarian. It's very er... you know... thing.

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MEGATAPE PAGE 8

Two tapes pah! We've got three tapes worth of material on one tape. The entire Magic Knight Trilogy. Let's say that again. The entire Magic Knight Trilogy; the game Crash put in its '50 best ever' games that got Classic awards and giant scores left right and centre. Other people rate them highly and tell you about them - we put them on a megatape and GIVE THEM TO YOU! Plus a lengthy playable demo of Technocop plus the Chewits game plus pokes... jeees what else do you want from us? Days - even weeks of entertainment for virtually nothing. Though if you knew the trouble we had...

The meanest fighting machi



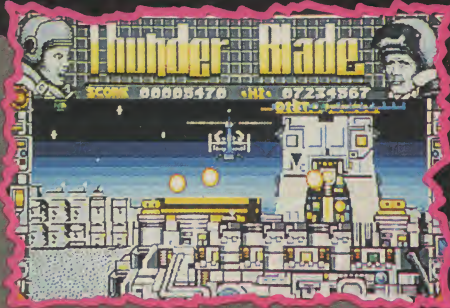
THE
Thunder
Blade

THE PEPSI CHALLENGE
GAME OF THE YEAR!

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Hold on to your stomachs, unscramble your brains for the journey of a lifetime as you take the controls of the most advanced Helicopter armaments specialists could ever conceive – outmanoeuvre the fastest jet fighter, outgun the most dangerous gunship.

Traverse the war-torn skyline of skyscraper city as you sharpen your skills for the battle ahead. Plunge out to sea for an epic encounter with a huge, heavily armoured gunship. Race on to a shoot-out in the rocky canyon and dense forests, where your flying expertise is tested to the limits as you dive, hover and skilfully manoeuvre your way through this fortified maze.



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ne ever to storm the skies...

0.1

Thunder Blade

Thrusting forward you gallantly roar ahead blazing enemy gunships, armoured tanks, jet fighters – avoiding heat seeking exocet missiles through the perilous oil installation to reach the final encounter – the awesome APACHE battle cruiser, the action never ceases. Never that is until you emerge victorious – Golden Gunner – master of the meanest fighting machine ever to hit the skies.

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Screen shots from various formats.

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David Jones – Superstar

Blinking flip, this David Jones chap certainly knows his onions (among other vegetables). His **Magic Knight** series did more for budget games than practically any other titles and gained record-breaking high marks and special awards from every computer magazine in the universe (except *Tedious Business Computing for Retail Management Monthly*).

Full of humour and featuring the technically brilliant Windimation menu-driven arcade-adventure system, the three games **Finders Keepers**, **Spellbound** and **Knight-Tyme** form an enthralling series.



20 Fascinating Things You Didn't Know About David Jones!!!

1) He's 28 2) He started programming in 1980 using Commodore PET computers 3) He didn't much like his quantity surveying job, so in 1984 he started up as a self-employed programmer 4) His first game was called **Bonkers** (oo-er!), and he has written educational and utility programs as well as the popular Mastertronic budget games 5) He used to write in Z80 Assembler on a Tandy TRS-80 and transfer the code to the Spectrum, and now uses two Atari STs with a 20Mb hard disk 6) He's so keen on **Magic Knight** that he's writing a book about his adventures 7) He's a **Dungeons and Dragons** Level 12 druid 8) He's now

working on an adventure-generating program for 68000-based machines 9) Er ... that's it! Sorry it wasn't 20!

Finders Keepers

The King of Isbisima wants a birthday present for his daughter and Magic Knight is the man for the task. Transported to the Castle of Spriteland, you must face the grisly ghouls and energy sapping creatures, search through two mazes and collect as many treasures as possible.

Traders you meet on the way will exchange treasures for money or other objects.

Keys:

A = UP N = LEFT G = GET
T = TRADE Z = DOWN
M = RIGHT D = DROP/LIST
E = EXAMINE
Kempston, Sinclair, Fuller or
Cursor joysticks.

Spellbound

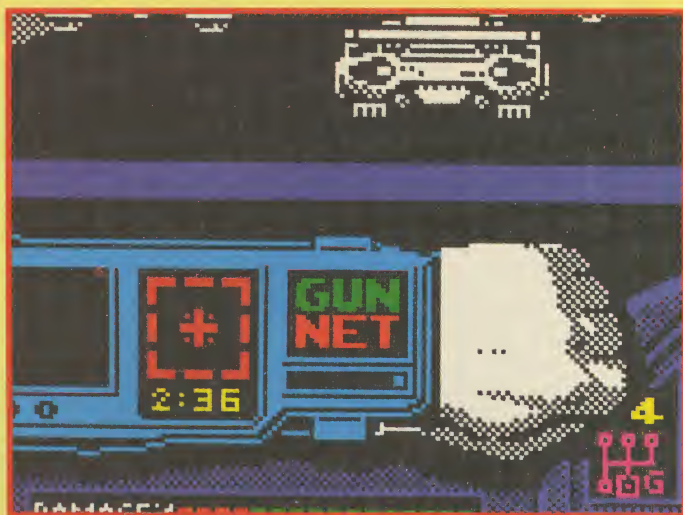
In his journey back from the future (see **Knight Tyme**) Magic Knight finds himself split into two; a good and evil Magic Knight (known as the Off-White Knight). Armed with 23rd Century technology, the Evil Knight sets up his own Kingdom. The good Magic Knight must capture the evil one, and merge with him to become a whole person again.

Keys

A = CURSOR UP/JUMP
Z = CURSOR DOWN
N = LEFT M = RIGHT SPACE
= MENU/CHOOSE OPTION
FIRE = SAME AS SPACE
USING JOYSTICK BREAK =
RETURN TO MAIN MENU

COMMANDS

BACK	UP	AT
DROP	AN	ON
TAKE	AN	ON
GIVE	AN	ON
EXAMINE		
READ	SOME	
CAST	A	SP



Technocop

Drive drive drive, squeek squeek, blam blam blam. Technocop is all this and more. Part road race shoot-'em-up, part rescue-the-hostages, part platforms and ladders thingy, either way it's one of the hottest games around at the moment. Our playable demo features lengthy playable excerpts of both parts!

Technocop is partly a road racing game – controls self explanatory – blow away the other cars until you get the message that a robbery is in progress, then pull over. But it's also a platforms type thing when you arrive at the scene of the crime and fight your way through the floors blasting baddies

and searching for the bad guy. **IMPORTANT POINT** – you have to shoot baddies more than once to completely kill them, a single blast only makes them back away a bit (well it would really).

Time is important. You must get the criminal within a set time limit or he will escape. Don't shoot civilians!

CONTROLS (IN THE CAR)

UP	Accelerate
DOWN	Brake
LEFT	Steer left
RIGHT	Steer right
FIRE	Missile

CONTROLS (OF TECHNOCOP)

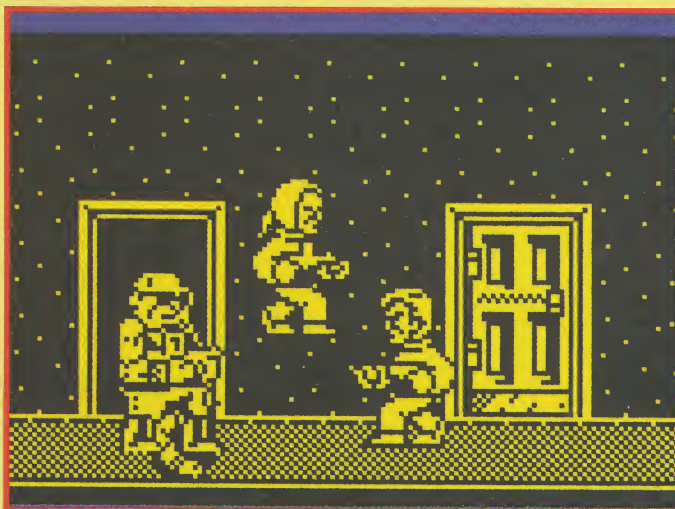
UP	Jump/Enter Lift/ Lift control
DOWN	Crouch/Pickup/ Lift control
LEFT	Move left
RIGHT	Move right
FIRE	Shoot

Technocop is followed on tape by the Chewits game. Load using LOAD "" then use keys ZX KM to control your dinosaur. More instructions on the compo page but really – we reckon even a total gimp could figure this one out.



Some Clues

Derby IV the Transputer can help you to start with. The advert for **Spellbound** may be useful. The clown may help you avoid dying of exhaustion. Sarab will tell you how to move the starship once you have a valid ID card.



Knight-Tyme

After saving the wizard Gimbal in **Spellbound**, Magic Knight has been transported into the future. To return home he must find the Tyme Guardians and obtain from them a Tyme Machine, avoiding the Space Pirates and Paradox Police.

The Windimation system allows you to choose options from the menus at the top of the screen. The up and down keys (or joystick) move the cursor, and Fire chooses an option. If there is no menu, Magic Knight can move left and right, or jump.

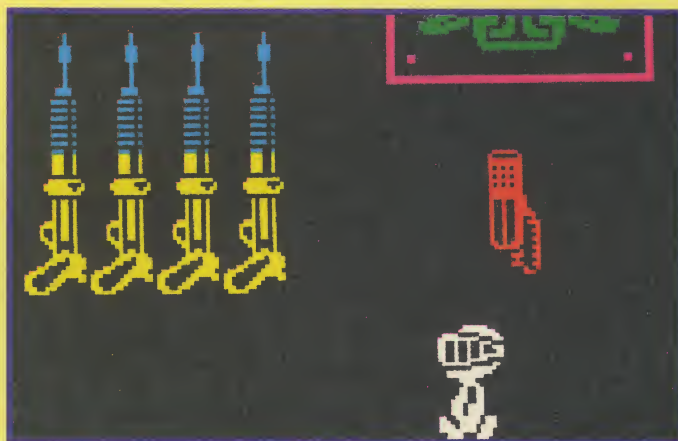
Some Clues

Read the Crystal ball every couple of minutes for help. Keep the Transporter pad in the lift. You'll need the Wand of Command before you can give anyone orders. Banshee will give you useful clues. Both Thor and Elrand will be needed to help you demolish the Wall. Elrand does not want the saxophone!

Keys

A = UP/JUMP Z = DOWN
N = LEFT M = RIGHT SPACE
= FIRE

Kempston, Cursor, Protek, Sinclair or programmable joystick.



POKERAMA!!!

Postie antics may have stopped him last month, but now he's back and as dangerous as ever! Adrian "Call me Adrian" Singh has magicked up another package of pokes and this month they include:

- 1) Deviants (for our version on Megatape 8)
- 2) Intensity
- 3) Cybernoid II
- 4) Metaplex
- 5) Soldier
- 6) Chubby Gristle
- 7) Foxx Fights Back
- 8) Beach Buggy Simulator
- 9) Terrorpods
- 10) Samurai Warrior

FIVE FIST-FULLS OF

MOTOR MASSACRE

The holocaust has come, laying waste cities, continents and civilisation. Out of the devastation emerges a breed of survivors merciless in their greed for simple possessions, barbaric in their thirst for power and dominance. To live even a day is hell, to achieve fame and wealth is deadly. You must fight your way to the carnival of motor destruction ever conceived, forcing your opponents into the endless chasms of darkness, before you emerge Supreme Gladiator... supreme that is until the next round of motor massacre.

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TECHNO COP

Step into the future... technology has overtaken society - the rich are richer, the poor are poorer - chaos, unrest, destruction... lawlessness reigns, terror rules. But this is your territory, your assignment with death. These are your streets and you have volunteered to clean out the scum, destroy the streetgangs and eliminate the deviants that pollute your city. Yes you have your beloved sleek racer, but armed with only stun gun and keep net what skills do you possess to neutralize the many hundreds who lie in wait for you? Being a cop is always dangerous, being a cop of the future is a step into the unknown.

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Screen shots from various formats.

FEROCIOUS ACTION

DARK FUSION

Only the elite pass the three phase test of the Corps of Guardian Warriors – co-ordinated fury in destruction of the mutant hordes of the underworld; supreme command skills in frantic defence against the invading alien space fleets and merciless nerve in bloody battle against the monster of the Pit of Despair. Then the final chilling decision – enter the Metamorphosis Chamber to fuse lifeforms with your vanquished foe or face your next challenge with only the powers your mortal form bestows on you.

BUTCHER HILL

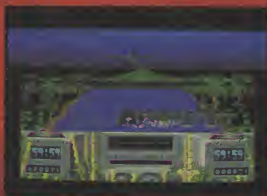
Tension mounts as you navigate the murky waters in your motorised dinghy, seeking out vital supplies and ammunition careful to avoid enemy mines and aerial bombardment. Landfall... deep in the heart of the Vietnamese jungle, heavy with the odour of death, concealing deadly mantraps and enemy gunposts. Panic... an unknown mantraps and enemy gunposts. the final obstacle between you and your ultimate goal – the assault on Butcher Hill.

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ARTURA

Stand proud Artura – son of Pendragon – and set forth on your quest to unite the warring kingdoms of Albion in this age of bloody war and mysterious magickes. Your task is to rescue Nimue from the clutches of your evil half-sister, Morgause for which only your fearless nerve and superior fighting skills and the mystical wheel of Cerriddwen will overcome the ghouls, spiders, soldiers and giant rats you encounter.

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AFTERBURNER



Verrroom! Swoooooohhhh! Kerblaaaaammmmm! Er ... KERSPLOSHHHH!

And any other sound effects you can think about.

Afterburner is here, and it's just as spectacular as it promised to be. After months of previews, teasers and tickles, the official conversion of the best-selling coin-op from Sega has arrived.

It was with trembling legs and dribbling chins that we loaded **Afterburner** and prepared to put it to the test. Would it be the most amazing convo ever? Or a complete load of old sausage-meat? Fortunately, it's better than we could have expected; just about as close to the coin-op as the Spectrum can manage.

Not much has been left out of the gameplay. Let's face it, there wasn't much to leave out.

Afterburner was never about complex gameplay; it's just about zooming through the skies, gawping at the incredibly fast, detailed, colourful graphics, and blowing to hell everything that moves. All these elements are still there, bar the colours.

As your F-128 sooper-dooper transonic interdiction fighter lifts from the deck of the Sega Enterprise, you feel that you're in for something special. When you lift into the air, the horizon suddenly fills with enemy planes, and you know that you have a fight on your hands.

The speed and smoothness with which your targets come out of the distance has to be seen to be believed. Your cannon fires continuously; you just have to line up your sights, dipping and veering to keep on target. When the LOCK ON notice appears on the bottom of the screen, your guided missiles have selected a target. A cursor box appears around the doomed enemy plane, and by pressing the fire button you can launch a deadly missile.

Your speed, and remaining stock of ammunition, are shown at the bottom of the screen. At



the top is shown your current score, as well as the stage of the game you've achieved. The first stage is relatively easy; the targets almost line up to be zapped. As you progress, though, you find yourself facing waves of missiles. The best way to avoid these is a quick barrel-roll; move the joystick over to the right or left, then give it a quick nudge. Your plane rolls alarmingly, the horizon spins around you, and with any luck you'll avoid the missiles. If you don't have any luck, your plane goes down, trailing what look like soap bubbles, which I'm sure are meant to be smoke rings.

If you survive through stage one, you'll rendezvous with a

AFTERBURNER



Thunderblade helicopter. Nice to see that the programmers had enough memory space to get all the jokes in – of course, this means that the game has to be multi-load, or use continual disk access.

OK, there's not much to **Afterburner**; it's just continuous, spectacular blasting. Don't let that stop you investing in what must be one of the big hits for Christmas ■



tanker which will top up your fuel and ammunition. Then it's on into the unknown, with a different coloured background, new types of planes, and a faster, more furious fight.

You must select music or sound effects during the game; the music's a jolly bouncy sort of affair, while the sound effects include some nice metallic bonglings and swooshings. The overall impression is of a game which is more than the sum of its separate parts; hence the rather strange marks in the faxbox.

If you survive long enough, you'll get to see the **Super Hang-On** motorbike chasing you off a landing strip, an **Outrun** sports car and a

ARCADE

REVIEW

FAX BOX
AFTERBURNER Label: **Activision** Author:
In-house Price: **£9.99** Memory: **48K/128K**
Joystick: **various**

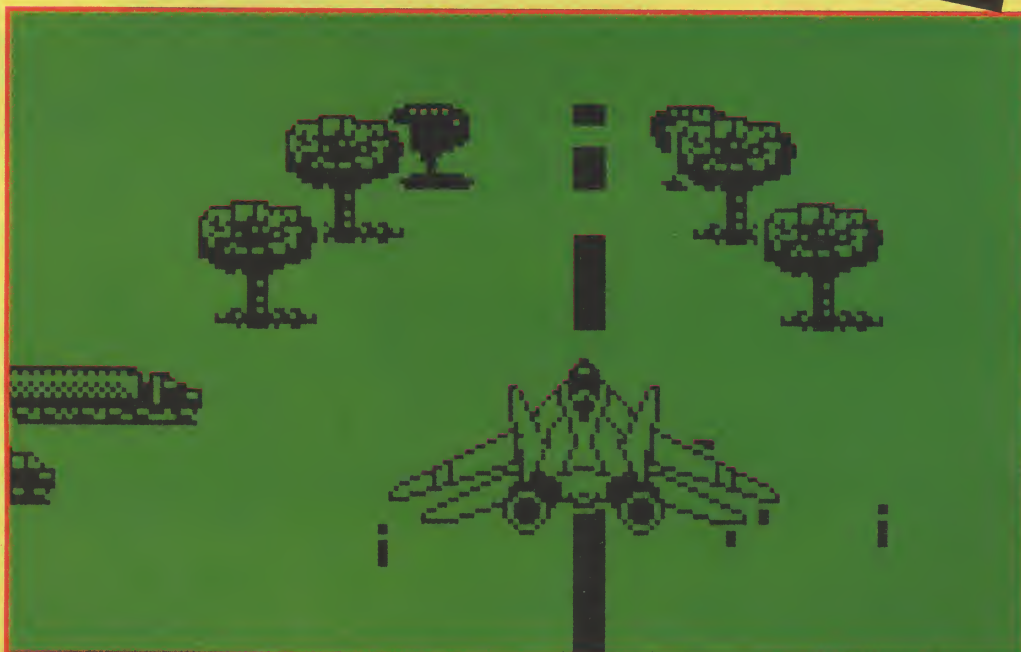
GRAPHICS	75	SOUND	76
PLAYABILITY	79	LAST ABILITY	87

Top-class conversion coin-op destined to top the charts

Reviewer: *Chris Jenkins*

OVERALL **90**

10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90



1

ZAP

**JON
RIGLAR
HE'S ALL
FAXED
UP THIS
MONTH**

The computer industry is a rum sitcom if ever there was. In fact, dear viewer (whoops, sorry I thought I was a YS writer there for a mo, I'll start again). In fact, dear squillion and a bit viewers, it could very well be *Neighbours* on a whacky and sort of spooky offbeat day such as a Monday lunchtime or a Wednesday evening. Let us dust all the crannies and fluff the nooks and open Mr Emap's spanish suitcase to explore the matter further.

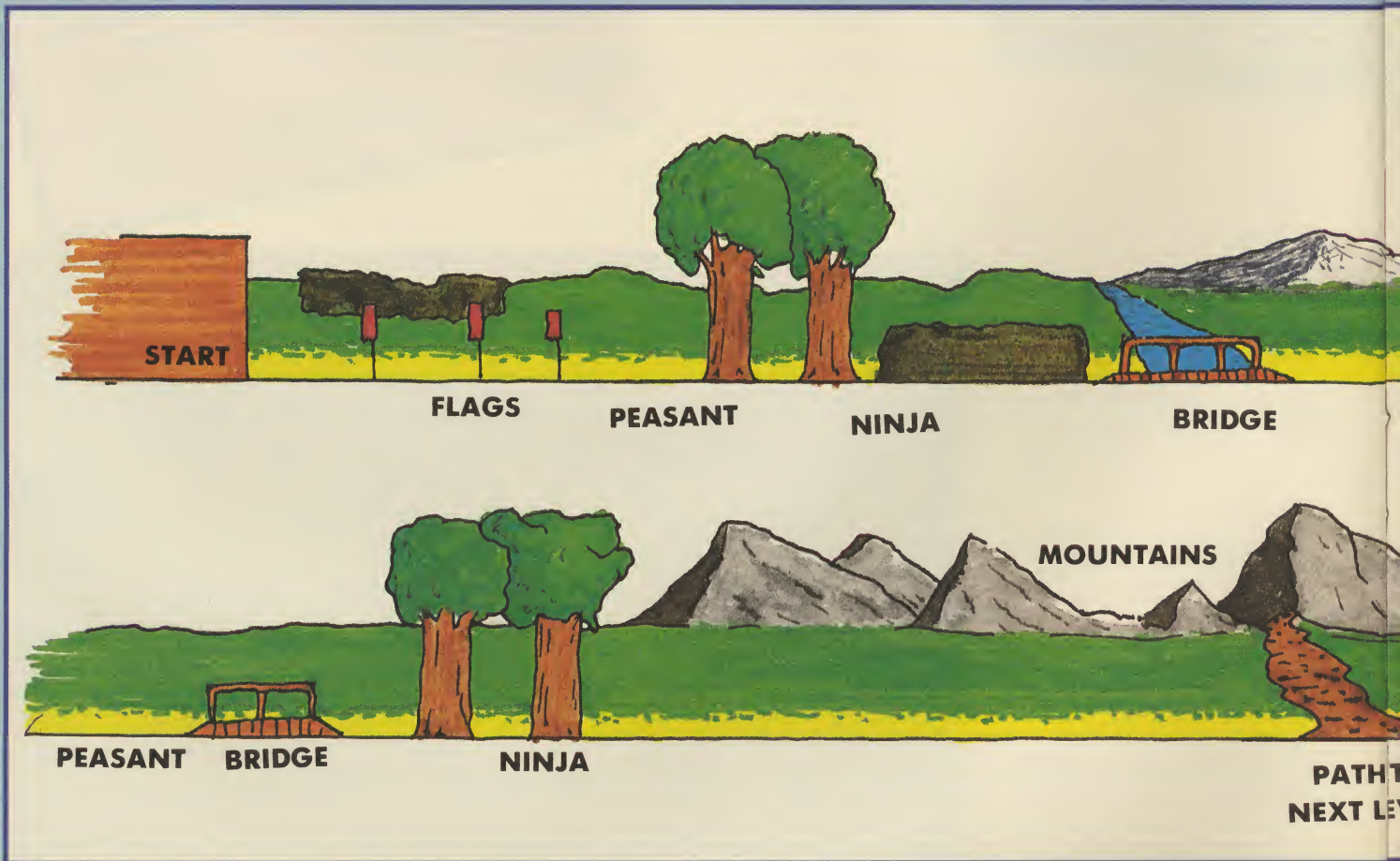
Take, pour example, Milkrogen. Well, who else could the company be but hairy old Shane i.e. someone who has vanished and is a bit hairy. (Well, maybe forget 'bout the hairy bit). Then there's fluffy, moist and cuddly Harold Bishop, who surely must be Hewson 'cos they've been around a fair while now.

But the question you're all dying to ask is 'Who is Charlene then guv?' Well of course there's always Codemasters, a spunky thing who is far too young to get married and cook toast (!?!)

How about us? Well good 'ole **SU** must be Lassiters lake really. Lots of sludge (Tony 'Gary Davies' Dillon), old tyres (the accounts dept.) and . . . (I think I speak for both Madge and myself when I say be off with you! - GT alias Jim Robinson).

**STANDBY TO
ACCESS:
SAMURAI
WARRIOR . . .**
*Firebird Section
writer: Wimpy
burger buyer:
Jon Riglar*

Firebird's latest release, commonly known as 'The Battles of Usagi Yojimbo' (which is a good enough reason to rename the whole bloody thing actually) is really rather nice. Lotsa big, busty, bouncy graphics with the occasional chop chop. But you may also need a map and a pack of brillo



WHAT

pads. Well, you can ruddy well get your own brillos mate, but here's a map and a few tips chucked in.

STARTING OFF

This whole section has been mapped. Walking along, make sure you keep your sword in its sheath because the first character you'll encounter is a peasant and peasants don't take too kindly to Samurai waving big long ones in their faces (fnar). Moving on you'll find a set of two trees. From the second, a Ninja will drop and attack you. Wap out your stick and make use of the three modes you can use. By far the best is the side swipe which is quickly executed so you can move to defend yourself straight after. All Ninja in this section only need one hit to keel over.

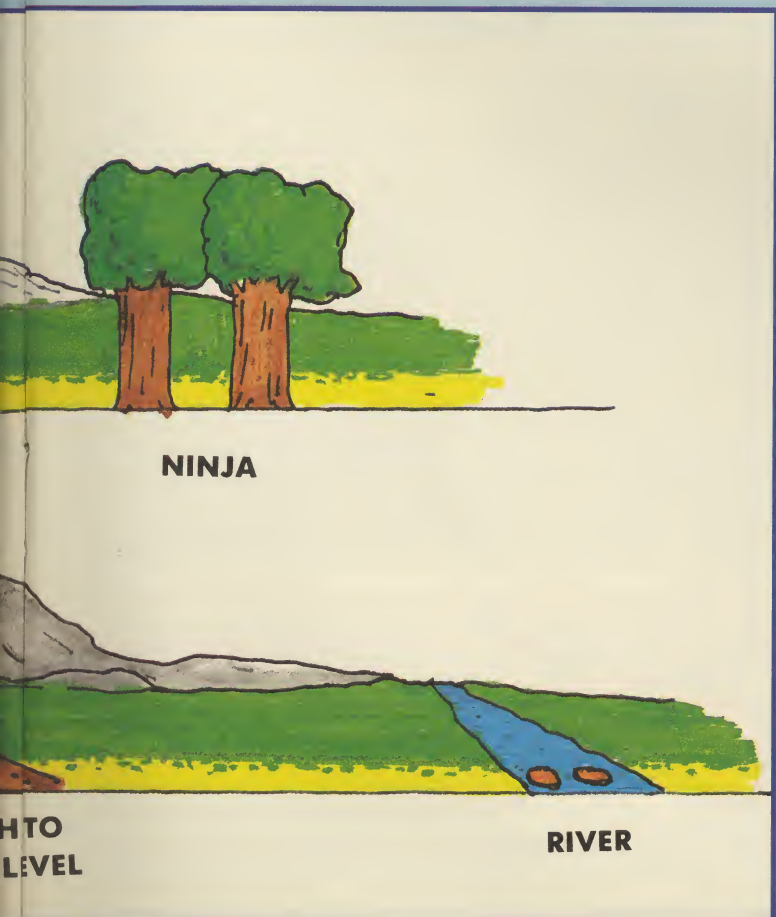
Sheath your sword straight away and wander onwards, over the bridge and make damn sure you keep your sword where it's supposed to be when

you walk past the bloke on the other side. Bow to the bloke if he is another Samurai because the more manners you display, the higher your Karma will climb. At the next set of trees, another Ninja will attack but this time he will drop from the first tree. Hack, slash etc.

Sheath the sword again and wander across to the next bridge. Here you should meet another peasant. You can either bow to him or offer money.

Giving money away will increase your Karma level, but try to keep some cash for later on in the game. From here on you can keep your sword unsheathed. Kill the next Ninja and zoom on to the end of the section. You will have noticed (honestly) that by keeping the sword out, old Usagi moves much faster.

At this point you can make a choice. Either head up the path or jump across the river. The latter is the hardest and so, being a true journo, I took the other route.



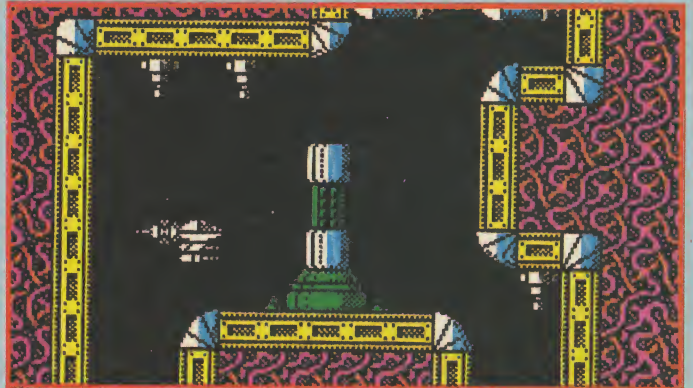
READER'S BIG FIVE 'WIGGING OUT ALL OVER THE SHOP' CHART

Sinclair User Dentist: Arfur Neecap BDS

Lovely smashing lovely smashing super splendid lovely smashin' as Jim Bowen would no doubt say when pondering the wondrous opportunity of having his very Big Five Reader's Chart printed in the fab organ. But! You don't have to be bald and wear glasses to stand a chance, oh no! It's really ridiculously simple you know. All you have to do is jot down your top five on a piece of bog roll, complete with the game you think should have been shot at birth, and send all offerings to Oocka-oocka-oocka-Jon-what-a-big-'un, followed by the usual blurb. Pronto!

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Cybernoid | Hewson |
| 2 Target Renegade | Imagine |
| 3 Thundercats | Elite |
| 4 Super Sprint | Electric Dreams |
| 5 Fruit Machine Simulator | Charlene Mitchell |

Welcome back to part two (?) the lovely moist and cuddly cahrt shown above were sent in by Chris Reeves who has waited 2 months for it to appear in print. Chris' gross-out bummer of a game is Zub and why not? If you want your chart printed then . . . (Em, haven't we already been through this bit? GT)



THE OTHER ROUTE

This section is ruddy massive and so we haven't mapped it but here's the low-down as to what goes on. Basically, watch out for the peasants who tend to appear all over the place. The first real teaser you'll hit are the ravines. The only way you can jump across these is to get into combat mode because it follows that if you can run faster you can jump further as well.

Further into this level are some Ninja which act the same as before but are a lot tougher and cannot be killed with one hit. They also tend to leap around in the so-called 'air' a lot which is a pain in the butt. At the very end, you'll also find a cave. DO NOT ENTER. Inside is an Invisible Ninja which, cos it's invisible, tends to be very hard to hit. Need I say more?

Right at the end of the section is a cave mouth which you have to enter to complete the section but watch out for falling rocks. SOME QUICKIES (FNAR YAK)

Once you reach the section with a building, enter it and have a gamble. This is possible, of course, only if you have any money. Likewise, in the very same building, you can buy some nosh and stuff yourself to build your energy back up to its starting value.

In the later levels, you also need to be careful to avoid peasants. If you don't give them any money, you might find yourself with a scrap on your hands. And there you go i.e. Fin!



ZAPCHAT

Hello hello hello!
Nice weather
Isn't it? (Don't
start that crap again.
GT) Anyway we've received
trillions of letter in which
people all claim to have
completed *Where Time
Stood Still* so, being generous
souls, we've decided to rprint
some along with some normal
scores. So here we go:

BOINZOI HIGH SCORES EDITION!

Section writer: Jon 'We call it
EMAPPPEEEE' Riglar

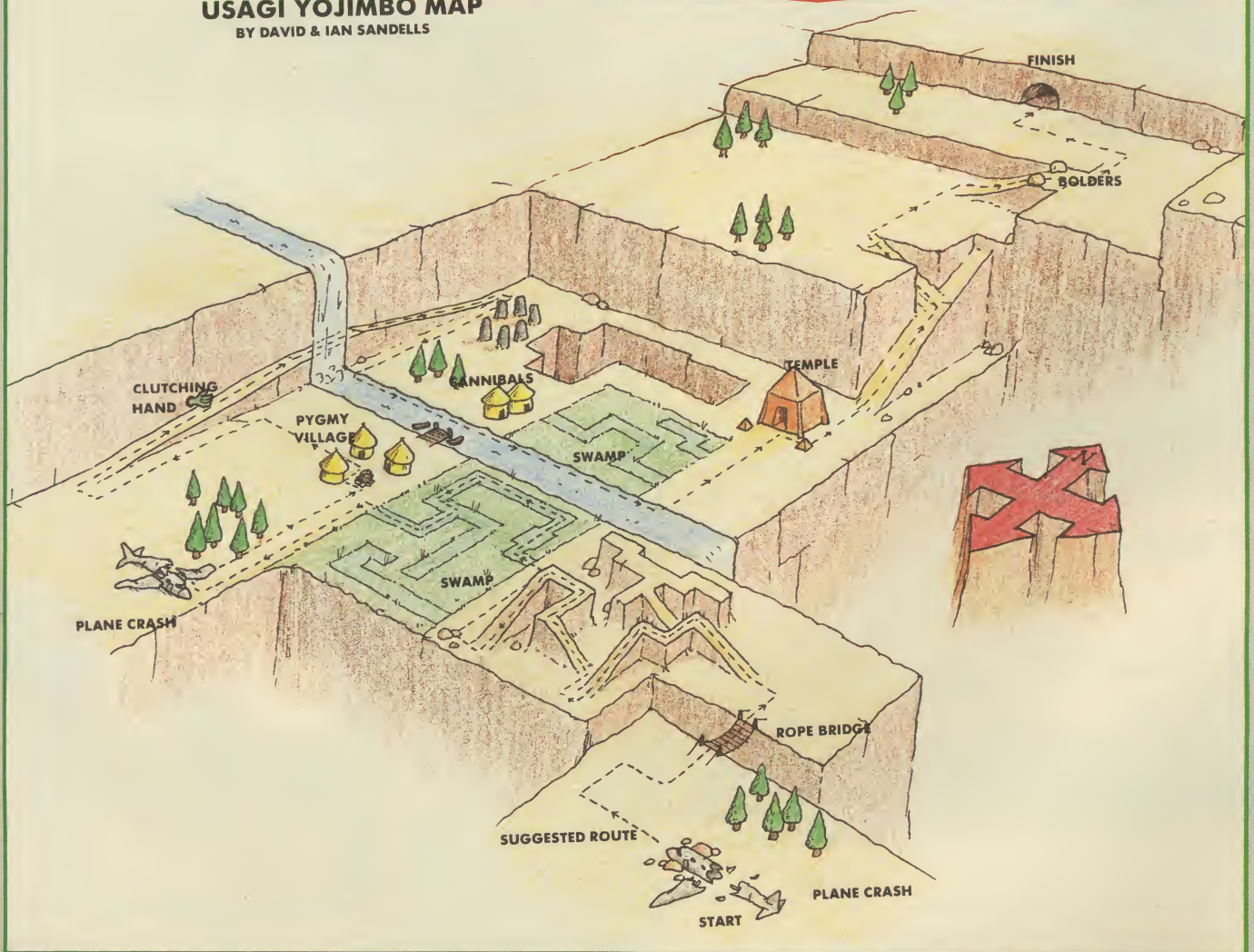
OUTRUN	1,188,200	Paul Sharatt
SUPER HANG ON	250,775	Sandra England
PAPERBOY	80920	Paul Sharatt
WTST	Completed	Andrew Limpin
WTST	Completed	Paul Taylor
WTST	Completed	Adrian Hicks
WTST	Completed	Jamie Mash
WTST	Completed	David and Ian Sandells

'GICE ME MY RUDDY WAD JON' UPDATE

Section writer: Jon '69-69-59 Riglar

Terrribly sorry and all that but last ish there simply wasn't enough room to print the map that won the was for being groovy and lookin' pretty fruity, so we've printed it this month. Although we've been flooded with maps for *Where Time Stood Still* there were too many - too many!! - to award some dosh so we've cut each one up into little squares and then stuck a bit from each to make one humungous one! And here it is! End of factual blurb.

USAGI YOJIMBO MAP BY DAVID & IAN SANDELLS





**HANDLE WITH
-CARE-**

Soon to be hitting your screens on ...
Commodore 64 cassette £9.99
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A LEGEND IN GAMES SOFTWARE

FIVE FIST-FULLS OF

ROY OF THE ROVERS

NEWSFLASH! Four of the Melchester Rovers five-a-side football team have been kidnapped... hours before a crucial fund-raising game to save their ground from grasping property developers. Time is running out and player-manager Roy Race **MUST** rescue his team-mates, dodging danger, escaping ambushes and boobytraps in order to play the most important game of his career!

CBM 64/128 £9.99 cassette £14.99 disk
AMSTRAD £9.99 cassette £14.99 disk
SPECTRUM £7.99 cassette £12.99 disk

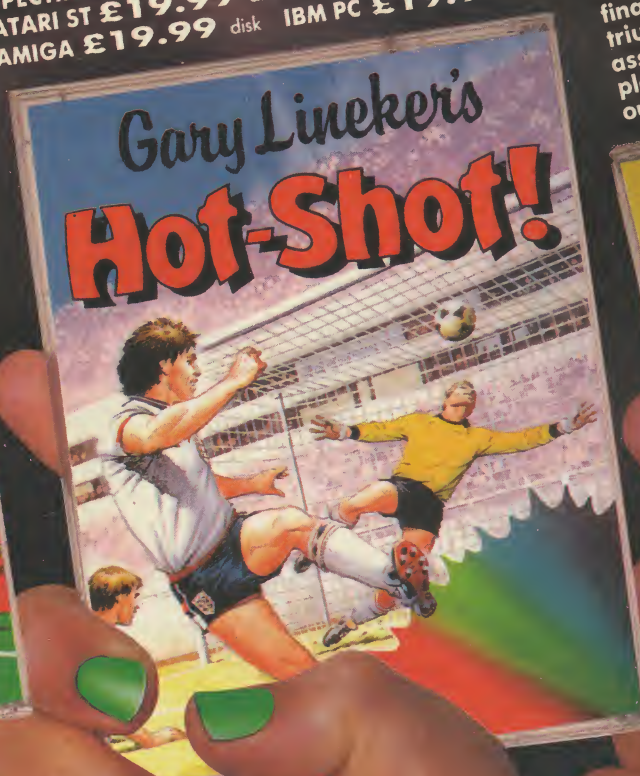
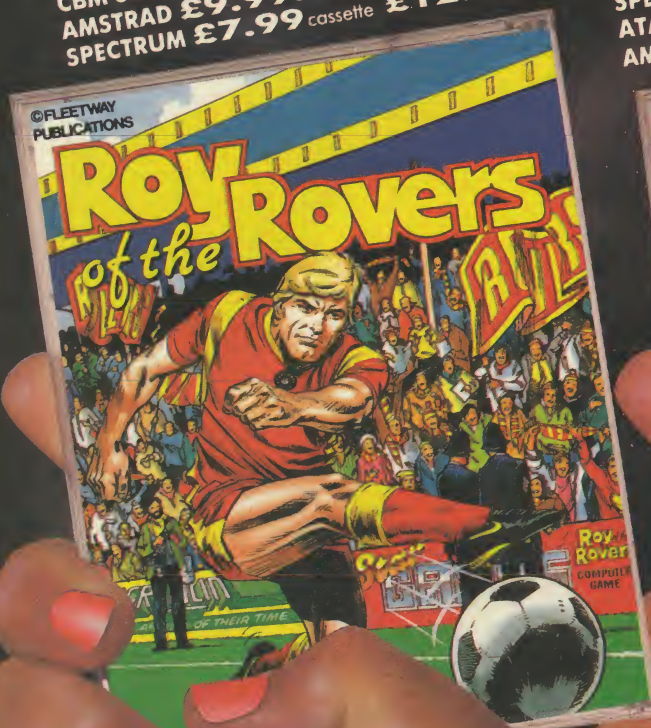
GARY LINEKER'S HOT SHOT

The most realistic football game ever produced for your computer. Play in a full-scale eleven-a-side football game complete with sliding tackles, throw ins, corners, goal kicks, fouls and even the dreaded referee with his red card. With all these features to watch out for will you have what it takes to match the shooting skills of England's top striker in Gary Lineker's Hot Shot.

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AMSTRAD £9.99 cassette £14.99 disk
SPECTRUM £7.99 cassette £12.99 disk
ATARI ST £19.99 disk
AMIGA £19.99 disk IBM PC £19.99 disk

SUPERSPORTS

As varied and as bizarre a collection of unique sporting events as you are ever likely to find. Have you got a good enough eye to be a 'crack shot'; the nerve to attempt the 'devil dive'; the strength to 'smash slates'; the accuracy to shoot the 'cross bow'; and finally (and unbelievably!) triumph over an 'underwater assault course'. Up to four players can compete in this outrageous challenge!



Screen shots from various formats.

SPORTING POWER

GARY LINEKER'S SUPERSKILLS

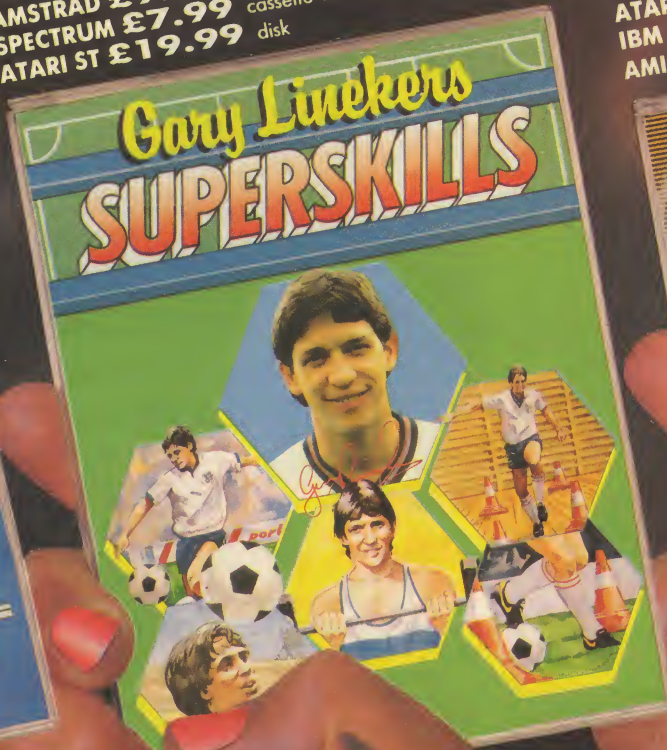
Hot on the heels of the hugely successful Superstar Soccer comes Superskills, again endorsed by England's star striker. To command a permanent place in the national team means dedication - dedication towards hard work and training. The national coach has designed an extensive training programme which will improve your fitness, ball control, sharpness and accuracy. Can you prove yourself to be both physically and mentally agile and alert?

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ULTIMATE GOLF

The ultimate golf simulation for your computer. See how different shots affect the way the ball is hit. Let the computer determine your skill level. Perfect your technique by following the example of the computer golf player. A must for all enthusiasts who've tried their hand at computer golf but never met a challenge as testing and enthralling as Ultimate Golf.

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GRENNLIN



WIN AN AFTER BURNER MACHINE

OK Strap yourself down. Hold yourselves back. This is the big one. Possibly the greatest competition ever run in any computer magazine ever in this or any other Galaxy certainly the most astonishing this side of Alpha Centuri – **SU** in conjunction with those very nice people at Activision brings you:

WIN AN AFTERBURNER MACHINE! REALLY! NO JOKE! HONEST!

Unbelievable but true, we have, sitting in our top secret warehouse, a brand, spanking new, standy-uppy, gleaming, Afterburner Machine, worth a cool £2,000. (Actually it's a hot 2,000 but don't worry it's all used fivers and will never be traced.) All you have to do to win it is: Read this and next month's magazine very very carefully indeed ... Easy eh?

Let us explain:

Scattered through the pages of this magazine, lurking in a corner here, peeking through a gap in an illustration there are a number of special Afterburner logos. They look like this:



SEND YOUR TWO COMPLETED FORMS TO:

'Gor lummy cripes. Good God. Gimmy an Afterburner machine Compo', **SU** Megacontrol, 14 Holkham Road, Orton, Peterborough PE2 0UF

AFTERBURNER COMPETITION FORM:

I think the total number of special AFTERBURNER logos hidden in the pages of the November issue is

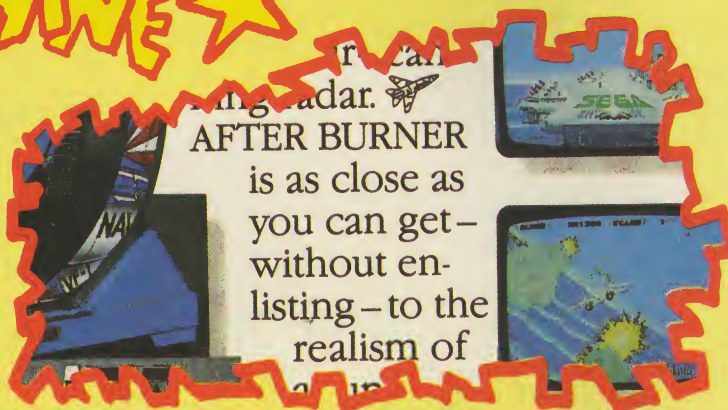
LOCATIONS:

Page	Roughly where on the page
20	IN THE COMPETITION

My Name
My Address

REMEMBER YOU NEED TO DO THE SAME THING IN NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE AS WELL!

This competition is not available to employees of EMAP, Activision or people who are so rich they already own an Afterburner machine. In particular Wayne Smedly of Southend may not enter because we just don't like you Wayne.



We want you to scour the pages of this and next month's magazines even more carefully than usual and hunt them out. Remember they could be anywhere – on an ad, in a review, ANYWHERE!

NOTE We only want you to count logos that look just like the one above – not any Afterburner logos that appear on Afterburner adverts or reviews etc and will be a lot bigger. When you think you've spotted the lot note down the total, with the page numbers you found them on, in the special form below. We've done the first one for you which is on this page a few lines back!

REMEMBER you'll need to do the same thing in next month's issue and then send the two complete forms in to the address below.



SOFTWARE THAT'S HARD TO BEAT

A range of powerful programs for the ZX Spectrum computers. Use the coupon below and send today for our free, comprehensive brochure. Quality, performance and great value for money.

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T A S C A L C

The Spreadsheet

At last! A comprehensive spreadsheet for the ZX Spectrum. A full working spreadsheet of 52 columns by 157 rows to process and evaluate numerical data. Advanced features include variable column widths, on screen help, interactive prompts and a full range of formula functions.

T A S P R I N T

The Style Writer

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T A S - S I G N

The Sign Maker

Produce and print your own signs, posters, banners and large notices to get your message across with maximum impact. Add a new dimension to your dot matrix printer. Prints signs, posters and banners with letters at any height from one inch to the full width of the paper.

T A S C O P Y

The Screen Copier

Screen copy software for the RS232 output on ZX Interface 1. Keep permanent and impressive records of your screen pictures using either the monochrome or 'grey-scale' software where the screen colours are printed with differing dot densities to give a shaded representation of the Spectrum screen colours.

T A S W I D E

The Screen Stretcher

ZX Spectrum 48K/128K/+2: obtain 64 or 32 characters per line on the screen. Works in 48K mode only.
ZX Spectrum +3: gives 3 letter sizes on screen — 64, 42 and 32 per line.

TASMAN PARALLEL PRINTER INTERFACE

A low cost means to link your Spectrum to any printer fitted with the Centronics standard parallel interface. Supplied complete with cable, driving software for LLIST and LPRINT and screen copy software for most dot matrix printers. Compatible with 48K AND 128K ZX Spectrums.

M A S T E R F I L E P L U S T H R E E

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Accomplish your home and business filing with ease and elegance using MASTERFILE PLUS THREE. A sophisticated menu-driven data filing, storage and retrieval system. Data stored with MASTERFILE PLUS THREE may be exported for use with Tasword Plus Three.

ZX 48K SPECTRUM

ZX SPECTRUM 128

ZX SPECTRUM + 2

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TASWORD
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The spelling checker for
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Dept SU



My dear cuddly bundle of fluffy, silky-soft marshmallow fur with the size, shape and texture of Chris Biggins posterior for a face (are you sure? – Kami).

Thanks an absolute billion for Daley Thompson's Olympic Challenge. You warned of possible damage to people's joysticks. What you did not warn us of was the possibility of what happened to me.

While wagglng furiously, something "went" in my right hand. It was my fourth finger. It hung limp and floppy as a disc ('scuse me while I honk up – JD). I yelled to my Mum – a bad mistake – she became hysterical (and not with laughter) and screamed for my Dad who, with all the poise and calm of something poised and calm, grabbed it and pushed it back in. And yes, it was exquisitely painful.

Does not such a vivid description of pain at least deserve a mention, a consolation and a reward?
Tom Soper
Oxford

● *It most certainly does – what a gore filled tale. All of the SU staff have passed out on the carpet (that's 'co they're all mega wimpos). What a brave chap you were, you didn't even cry (or did you?)*

I'd just like to say that Tony Dillon must be as mad as a mad man for liking Iron (crud) Maiden and Def (I can't play for toffee) Leppard.

As for you, you mutated slug, when was the last time you cleared up your desk and paid the Inland Revenue bill, and you should stop smoking those bullets – they'll stunt your growth.

Why don't you save some of your wages and tidy up your place a bit, flowery wallpaper here, pink pastel curtains there and a nice bowl of roses. Dismissed.

Col. Jumpin' Jack Flash

Thatcham Base

Somewhere very hush hush in Newbury

● *Kami thinks your ideas are extremely fair and you must be a bit of a woofa so he wants nothing more to do with you – go away forever!*

You fat lump of Blue Peter trash (wah? – GT).

I wanna lodge a complaint. Your mag dumped a compo in ish 78 (p.39). The questions were somefink about fat traffic wardens and Beatles' songs.

Anyhow (yeah get on with it – Kami) I answered the questions (they were pimpsqueak), bunged the slip in an envelope, but you remarkably clever idiots over at SU forgot to put an address to send it to, on the godforsaken page. Explain that, you lumpa turd.

If you don't publish this, I'm coming round to kick your ass and knock the stuffing out of you. Does December 26th suit you?

Chow for now
Alex 'Tomahawk' Potts

● *If you're such a smart ass you would have remembered that you always send competitions to the same address, which is in the copy for every other compo that month. Sure you can attempt to sort me out on December 26th, 'cos that's Boxing Day and I'll be on my Chrimbo holds you sucker!*

WELCOME TO STEVE STEWARD CORNER

Steve has nothing better to do with his days than write letters to Kami, so I thought you'd like to see what he has to say . . .

G'day Kami. I was wondering if you were related to the Gummy bears. If so, go behead a carrot (beg ya pardon – GT). Anyway, enough of that drivel, I would just like to say that I can't stand people criticising you and the mag. I think you are both ace, so keep it up.

Steve (nutball) Steward

Well done SU. You have done a smashing job on the Megatapes – I have them all. Also I think the pokes on the tape are the best idea since sliced bread.

Now, down to business (wondered when you'd get down to that Stevie – GT). If anyone messes with Kamikaze I'll come round and bite their noses off and stick them on my bedroom wall.

Steve (bonecrusher) Steward

OK, who are Steve 'savage' Stewart and Stephen 'hungry' Proctor. I could mash you all and Kami will back me up. If he doesn't I'll take away his fruit pastilles. But Kami knows that I wouldn't tell anyone about his problem (Ooops sorry Kami).

Steve (masher) Steward

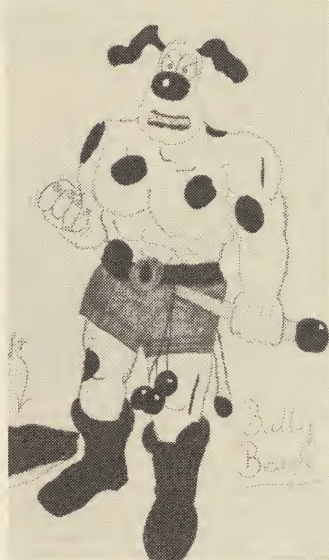
● *Well readers, what an interesting guy Steve is (yawn, snore). Does anyone understand what he's blathering on about? I certainly don't. No more letters Steve, our floorboards are fair busting under the weight.*

Yo Kamikaze, I've bin readin' quite a lot about you, an' I've been wonderin' if you could spare a scrap or two, 'cos I've just about finished off everyone around 'ere an' life's gettin' a bit borin'.

Oh an' by the way, don't expect to be seein' much more of that Foxx geezer either, 'cos I sorted him out good an' proper (heh heh!). PS I'd like fights with unfair odds against me.

Bully Beagle
Barron-in-Furness
Cumbria

● *Good fer you, BB. Ah couldn't be bothered to finish off the Foxx, he's too much of a wimpo liberal fer me to bother with, but thanks fer doin' the job. Ah'll be around to utterly bash you up next Tuesday.*



Yo Kami.

Aaaargh, help me, I can't take anymore.

Oh thanks. Anyway PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE will you give us more warning when you are going to release another Megatape with such quality as Deviants and Typhoon as I might just . . . ooo . . .

Alex Taylor
Nottingham

● *Sorry matey we'll try to warn you next time. Yes Deviants and Typhoon were pretty wonderful weren't they? I hope you've come round by now.*

I have a complaint about your Megatapes. Ooh no, they're all superb (we know – GT) but ALWAYS when I try to remove the sellotape it destroys the picture of Kami Bear on the side of the tape. That's it!

Paul Plonk
Luton

P.S. I think the Megatapes are FAB, but your mag is crap.

● *Well, we were considering doing something about your complaint, but 'cos you insulted us at the end and 'cos you got such a stupid name – you blew it. Ha!*

TELL IT

Send your letters to
'Tell it to the Bear,'
SU Mega-Control,
30-32 Farringdon Lane,
London
EC1R 3AU



When I see mags giving tapes with pokes on them and stuff, I wonder why you can't get them on +3 discs. And when there's no tape free, the mag costs £1 and when there is a tape on it it costs £1.50.

Please, please, please could you send be two blank discs with nothing on them so I can write on them. You won't let me down because you are the best (we know – we don't need you to tell us – GT) and I will pay £1.20.

Barrington Simpson
Lewisham

● *What do you think we are a bloody charity? (Actually we can't do discs yet, but we're looking into it – GT)*

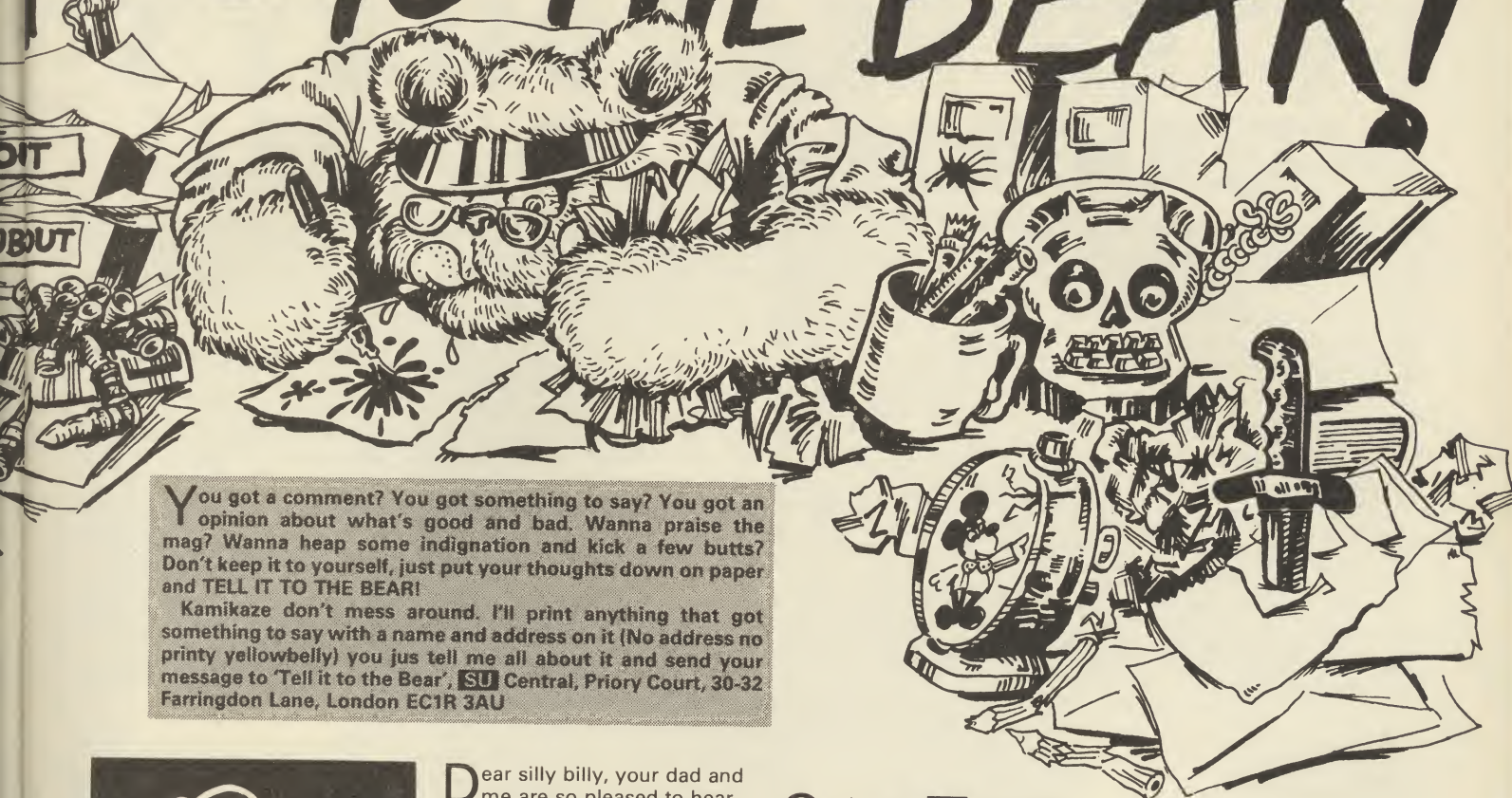
Listen Kami, you may be the most unreasonable living thing ever born, but what you're doing to those other Speccy mags is as fair as Russia launching a nuclear strike on the Fiji Islands.

Bringing out Megatapes makes other magazines look like a mindless mound of alien dung. Not to mention the new review system (you just mentioned it stupid) which makes Crush's look like something you'd find in a cat tray (no, not a cat!!)

Be fair; give 'em a chance.
Will Labbett
Norfolk

● *No we won't give those scumbags any chances. If they can't be as brilliant as SU that's their problem, not ours!*

LET'S TELL IT TO THE BEAR!



You got a comment? You got something to say? You got an opinion about what's good and bad. Wanna praise the mag? Wanna heap some indignation and kick a few butts? Don't keep it to yourself, just put your thoughts down on paper and **TELL IT TO THE BEAR!**

Kamikaze don't mess around. I'll print anything that got something to say with a name and address on it (No address no printy yellowbelly) you jus tell me all about it and send your message to 'Tell it to the Bear', **SU** Central, Priory Court, 30-32 Farringdon Lane, London EC1R 3AU



You four eyed diphthong pussbag.

Your so called humungous mag done a goof up (no this can not be possible - GT).

In the **Octan** review Jim Douglas said, "and for £2.99 you can't go wrong can you?" On the Fax box it said the price was £1.99, so you can go wrong!

If Jim Douglas don't get his act together I'll stick a Colt 45 up his nose and fire it. After all that your mag is still the coolest.

David Corners
Basingstoke

● **Jim means:** "It wasn't my fault! The page was put together by someone else etc". But actually he's very sorry and is weeping openly over such an earth-shattering oversight.

Dear silly billy, your dad and me are so pleased to hear you are writing another **SU**. We think you are ever so clever, but then you were always the brains of the family. I remember you coming top of the class when you were 14. Your dad and me were so proud, even if the other kids were only 8. Then came the great day when you went to Oxford University. What a pity it was shut.

You won't know the old house when you next visit us. We've moved. It's very nice here but the washing machine doesn't work properly, I put six shirts in, pulled the chain and I haven't seen them since. Dad has a wonderful new job, with 500 people under him. He cuts the grass in a cemetery. Your sister had a baby this morning, but I haven't found out whether it's a boy or a girl, so I don't know whether you're an aunt or an uncle. And, as you've guessed, I'm completely mad.

Timoth Piper
Walsall
● **Great jokes, scurfball. Which book d'you steal 'em from?**

I know that this game is a little old, but because I haven't seen any tips for this game I thought I would write to you. These are my tips for Dizzy ...

Stephen Tierney
Doncaster
● **Sorry Steve, Had to edit that letter 'cos it was borin'. My tip for Dizzy is, keep outa ma way or you'll git ya nose shot off ...**

On the next **SU** Megatape, please make sure

Operation Wolf does not have any tape loading errors, because on **Brat Attack**, **Amaurote** and **Deviants** it has had errors. So please please please do not have any errors on a game as cool as **Operation Wolf**.

Christopher Hall
Kingsbridge
Devon

● **OK, we'll make sure all the tapes are fine. All except yours, whingebag**

I just thought I'd let you and your many readers know that I have written a brilliant computer game called **Hen-National**. It's a humorous game and is very addictive, with brilliant graphics and expert sound. All that you have to do is send £1 and an SAE to ...

Craig Northam
Birmingham
● **Sorry Craigie, you're too late for the Crap Games contest. Better luck next year.**

Please, want some money? Us old incorruptibles at **SU** have got a crisp ten pound Um . . . cheque just waiting for you as reward for your contribution to:

PRAISE **SU** TO THE SKIES!!

All you have to do is write us the most over the top, excessive, fulsome, extravagant, extreme letter of praise we've ever seen. The most truly superlative each month will win ten pounds! Here's the sort of thing we mean:

Dear no-father figure **SU**

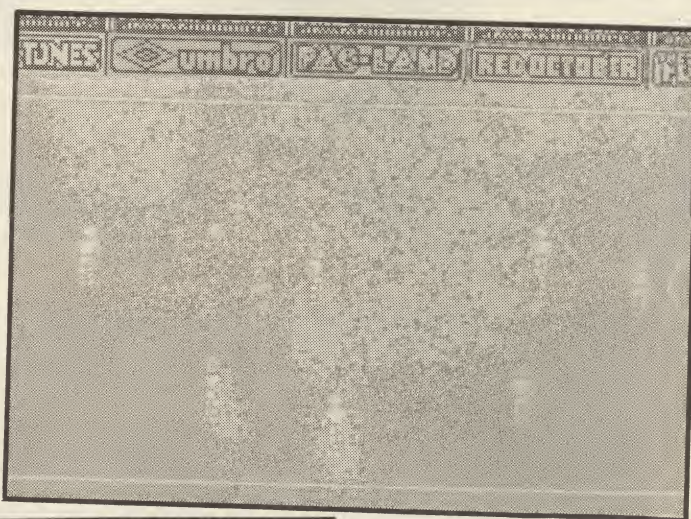
As a mortally humble being I worship your scriptures every month, devouring your every eloquent word. I could cry with insignificance as I gaze deliriously at your infinitely knowledgeable reviews.

I am suicidal with my undeserved honour of entering your far superior competitions. And you, Lord Bear, are my sole reason for being. In my comparatively pathetic mind, I reassure myself I shall forever be in debt to you, for your holy magazine.

A loyal socklicking servant of your immortally high existence and apostle of your heavenly scriptures, hardly worthy of defacing this shrine of a column with my mere name,

Andy Pilkington
PS - Sorry to waste your invaluable and seemingly endless time.

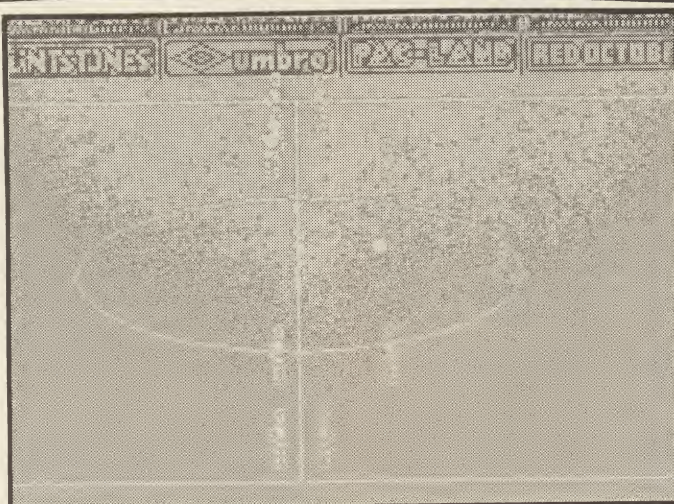
PETER BEARDSLEY'S INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL



It's a funny old world. (I bet you thought I was going to say 'game' there). At first, action football games were wicked (**Match Day**) and managerial games were poo (**Football Manager**). Now, all of a sudden there are some wicked managerial games popping up (**TSM, FD2**). The action ones, with one or two notable exceptions, are getting crap and **PBIF** is no exception. It has to be, without a doubt, one of the worst arcade football games I have ever played.

You play in some international league thing either alone, or with a friend playing a different team, the ultimate aim being to become the Champion of Europe, or something like that.

Once you've chosen which team you want to be, and you've seen who else is in your group, you play the first of the 6 matches that will decide



whether you get to go through to the next round.

The game is viewed side on, as are nearly all the footy games nowadays, except that this one is terrible. It seems small, skinny graphics are all the rage now, and as for the

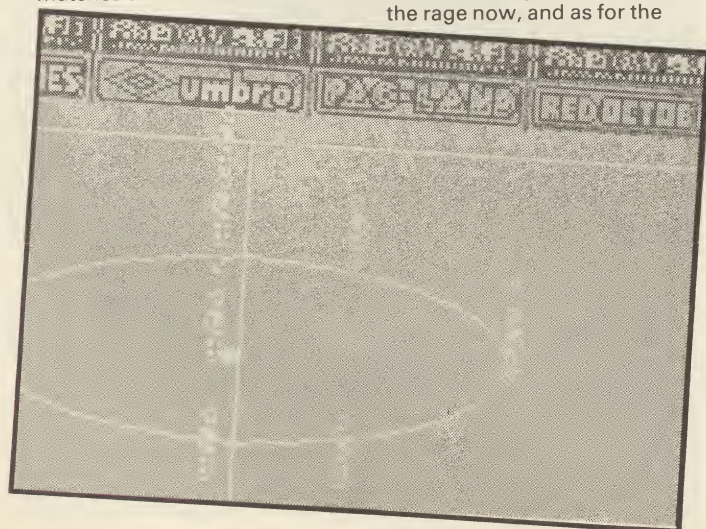
colourful passionate supporters? I've seen El Presidente show more passion than that. (Nonsense, I am a ruthless sadistic editing machine. I have no emotions. Now give me my pen back before I tell my Mum. - GT).

The scrolling is slow and jerky, and the animation of the players is terrible. How many players have you seen run while scratching their instep with their heel?

As normal, you control one man on the pitch at a time, signified by being a different colour to the rest of the team. The player is usually the one nearest to the ball. Controlling the ball is no problem. Just stand still and wait for it to hit you, then run headlong at the goal. You won't be tackled and the goalie will just step aside for you. As you can guess, the game is appallingly easy, if not just plain appalling.

PBIF is just one big disappointment. There is just so much missing. The goalie can't dive. You can't do sliding tackles, or even headers. You can't barge other players. **YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING!!!**

No thanks ■



ARCADE
★
REVIEW

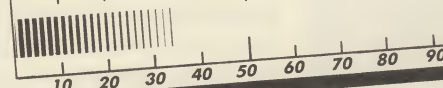
FAX BOX

PETER BEARDSLEY'S INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL Label: **Grandslam** Author: In house Price: **£7.95** Memory: **48K/128K** Joystick: **various**

GRAPHICS	SOUND
37	47
PLAYABILITY	LAST ABILITY
42	24

A croaking old duffer if ever I saw one. There has to be better than this

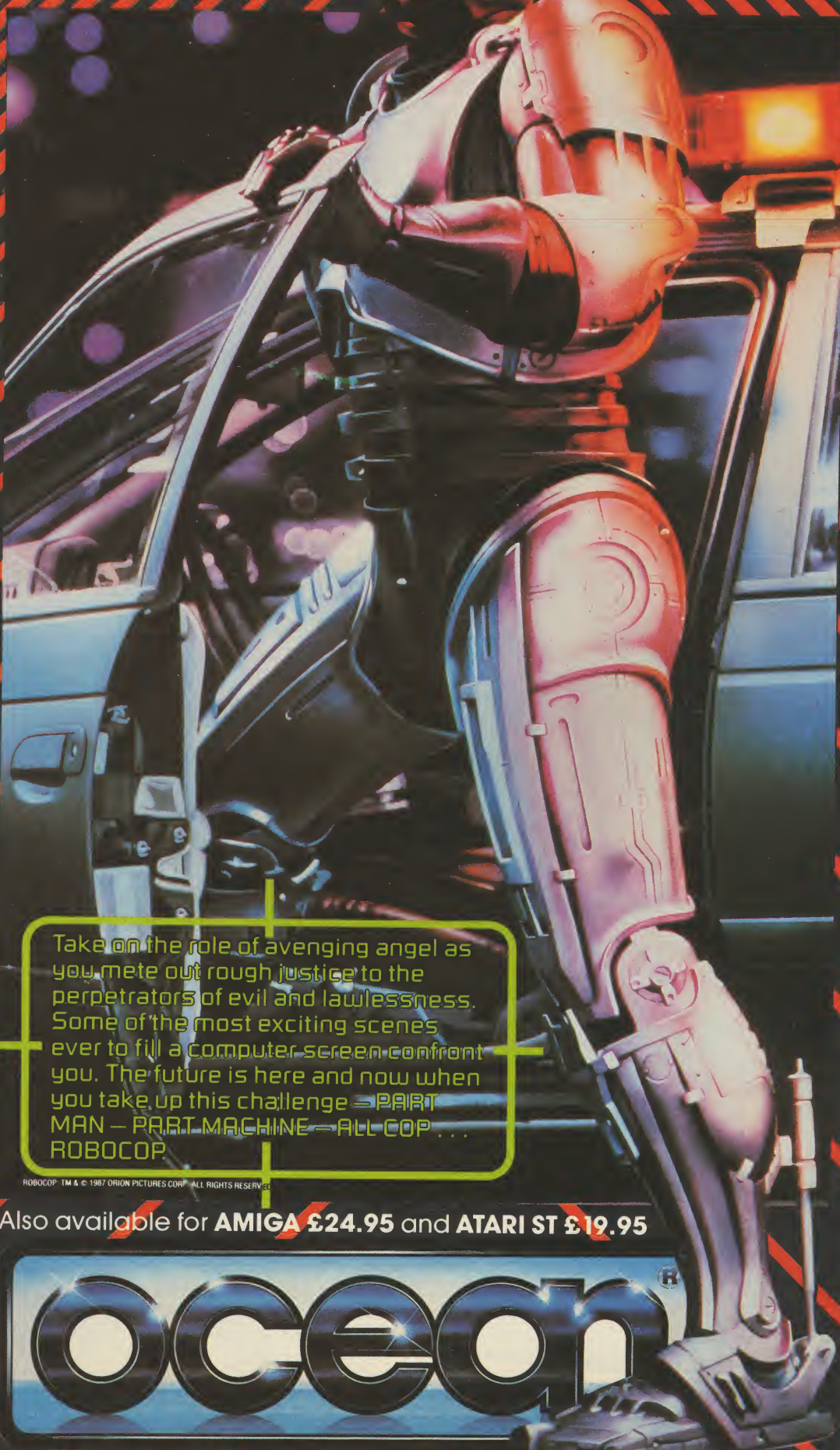
OVERALL
34



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you may well find them to be a little unsatisfactory.

For example, to turn around you pull the stick straight down, but the low chop (a very useful move) is executed by a down move with the fire button depressed. As a result, in the heat of the battle you stand a good chance of mooning at the enemy rather than launching a useful attack simply because of a momentary slip off the fire button. Unfortunately the, um, flamboyant nature

front. The colours are largely unsavoury – disgusting black-on-pink for level 1 – and it's advisable to ditch them unless you've got a decent monitor.

Along the way there are various objects which will boost your energy, open secret doors etc.

You do get the impression of exploration. Making a map is pretty much essential since you may be

BARBARIAN II

Ba ba ba ba ba Barbariaa! Yes, folks he's big, he's bad and he's back. Barbarian: all muscle and hair with gleaming teeth.

The Dungeons of Drax, in case you can't tell from the decidedly booby artwork that's been appearing recently, is the sequel to **Barbarian**, the game of Maria "Chocolate Mousse" Whittaker fame.

Palace have slightly changed the format for this outing. Instead of the straight-forward combat situation from the first game, there's definitely more of a mappy-explory feel to this one. The story goes as follows: Drax, having seen defeat in the first game has fled to his secret dungeons beneath the wastelands, surrounding himself with troops and monsters and keeping a very low profile. In true avenging crusader style

you have to track him down and destroy him.

The game takes place on three levels. There's the open-air wasteland section, where you are confronted with "warm-up" creatures which aren't really to threatening and you get a chance to practise your swordsmanship (you get a sword if you play Princess Mariana and an axe if you are The Barb) without too much grief. Next up – once you've found your way around the maze-like area – it's the catacomb level with moderately offensive characters which, in turn, leads to the final dungeon level where Drax's top henchmen hang out.

Getting the hang of the controls is a bit of a pain. As with all of the games of this ilk there's a whole cartload of joystick moves that you need to memorise. Even when you've mastered them,



of the about-face means that you're defenceless for at least a couple of seconds.

The bad guys are exceptionally annoying and I felt that their frustration factor wasn't equal to their "skill". They all seem to wait until you have initiated a move, and then dodge it and attack before you can strike again. Since you can't abort a strike, this gives them a slightly unfair advantage.

The graphics are large and pretty swift on the movement

pushed onto another screen during combat and need to find a swift route to your destination, rather than faffing around retracing your steps.

Barb II is certainly playable, though I'm not sure how much the exploration element adds to its appeal. This is the sort of game you play to vent some commuter aggression, not when you want to enter into any thought process. If you've got the first volume, you should think carefully before buying this episode.

ARCADE



REVIEW

FAX BOX

BARBARIAN II Label: **Palace** Author: **Icon**
Design Price: **£7.95** Memory: **48K/128K**
Joystick: **various**

Enjoyable slash-fest.
Limited exploratory
value

Reviewer:

OVERALL

69

GRAPHICS	SOUND
70	50
PLAYABILITY	LAST ABILITY
78	70



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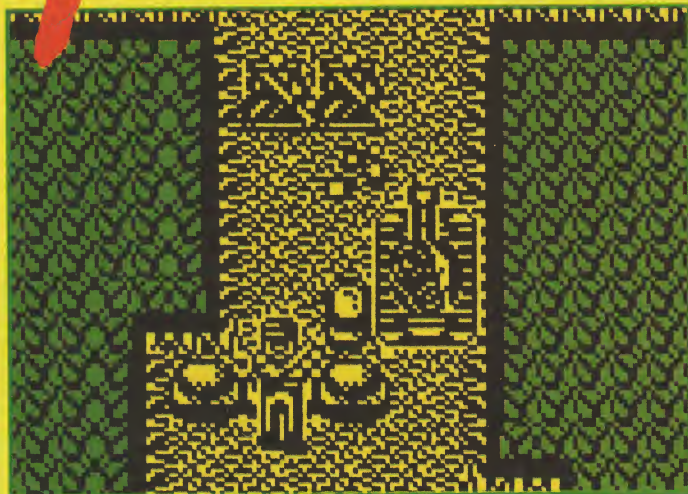
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GUERRILLA WARS

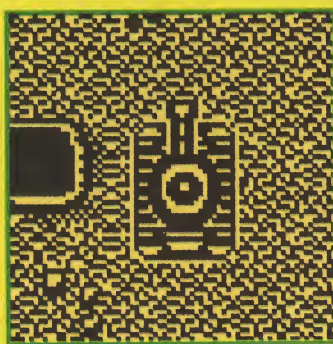


Guerrilla War is a Yee Haa blam blam sort of game. Loads of blasting, loads of bullets hurtling all over the place, bazookas to pick up, tanks to do damage with, no social message whatsoever basically. This is probably good but I'm not sure that **Guerrilla War** actually gives you anything that, say, **Commando** doesn't. It certainly isn't rubbish but original noooooooo.

The plot – vertically scroll your way up a tropical island, avoid booby traps and zillions of enemy troops and get your two brave marines to blast your way to victory. There are five levels, and the specific objective is to destroy the stronghold at the end of the final level. Each level features a different enemy pattern and a different end of level obstacle.

It isn't just blasting (quite), there is a certain element of strategy that arises from the fact that, to begin with your grenade count is severely limited so you'd better be careful

where you use them. Totalling some enemy soldiers will reveal a bonus



weapon, bazooka or flamethrower. If you actually succeed in rescuing a hostage then aside from a general feeling of well being and achievement you'll get all your bullets and firepower restored to maximum. Conversely killing a hostage is bad, and you'll get penalised 500 points which in my case means minus figures.

Now none

of this sounds particularly original – this is

because it isn't but an overly familiar gameplay can sometimes be redeemed by totally wicked programming and graphics. Oh dear...

Guerrilla War is programmed by Sentient Software for whom I've had a lot of respect in the past but this is pretty dire. The scrolling gives new meaning to the word 'jerkyness' and the

camouflage – me I'd call it colour clash.

There is inevitably, a tank you can get into which trundles you through large areas of jungle in a hurry but, again, it looks pretty lame. The two player version is better but that's only because two player versions of this sort of game are always better – all that buddy buddy stuff. I ended up shooting quite a few hostages merely because I couldn't tell which was which,

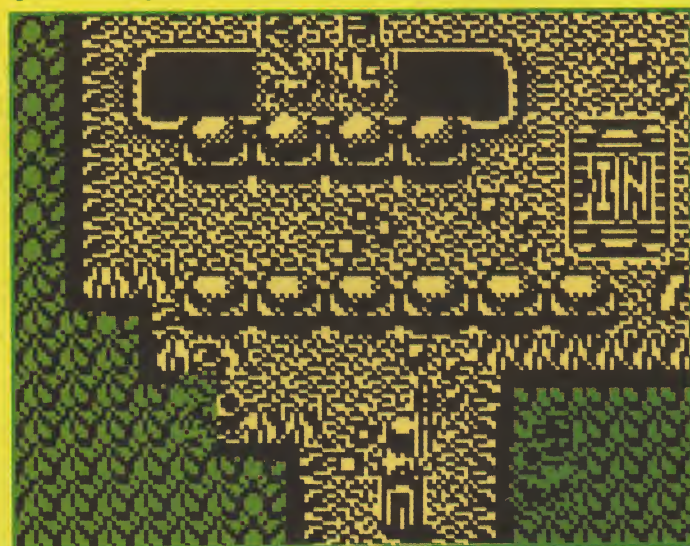


graphics are so badly animated, and so clumsily drawn that it is almost impossible to see what it going on to begin with – it was only on about the fifth play I even realised that I had picked up a bazooka.

The problems of attributes also create another big minus. Half the time you die for the simple reason that you can't see the enemy who have merged into the background – the generous might call this

actually some of the time it was difficult to tell which was hostage and which was landscape feature...

Sound is entirely average, graphics are poor, gameplay is utterly the same as at least four or five other games and the best that you can say is that it is sort of like the Coin Op but so what. There are better games which are very similar to this already out there, some of them are on budget. This should be too.



ARCADE

★

REVIEW

FAX BOX

GUERRILLA WAR

Label: Imagine

Author: Sentient

Price: £8.95

Memory: 48K/128K

Joystick: various

GRAPHICS

34

SOUND

65

PLAYABILITY

34

LAST ABILITY

23

Dull vertical combat affair. Poor.

Reviewer: Graham Taylor.

OVERALL

40

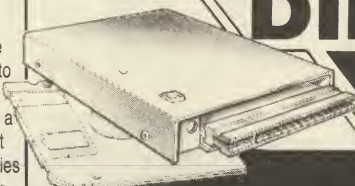
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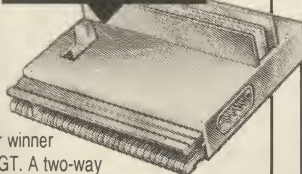
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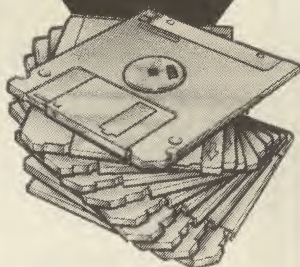
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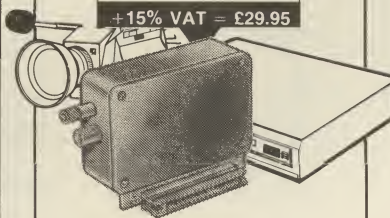
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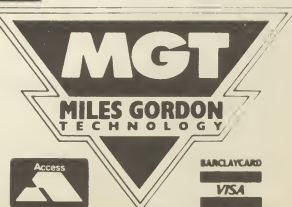
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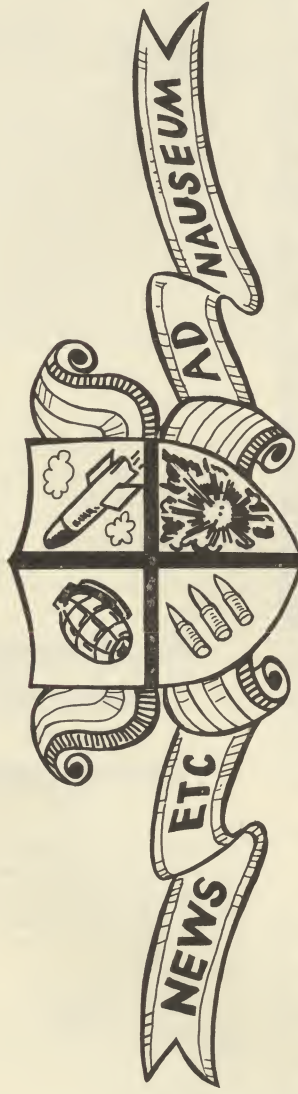
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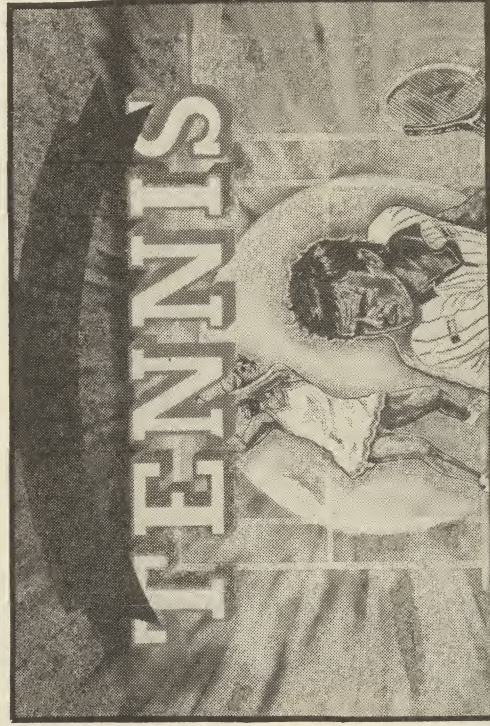


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Among the games shortly to appear is **Feud**, the corking fantasy wizardry quest, **Rogue** an icon-driven window-controlled fantasy quest and **World Darts**, an "arrow" slinging quest.

Also under way is **War in Middle Earth** (previewed on the Spec in Preview) which is the third in the series of

views) than to hit confusing, then to PC2000 sales upon the Comet chain so

The Kamikaze Bear Headlines

Sometimes ah don't understand you hoomans. Ya git all het up over a buncha whales stuck in the ice, an' spend millions of dollars getting' them out. Then ya go an' hunt down their brothers an' sisters an' shoot 'em fulla harpoons. If you want the whales taken out, I'll do the job for ma usual fee, but what's the idea of makin' life more difficult by lettin' them get away? Just think how many eskimos we could feed.

I guess ya all know what ah want fer Christmas. Yup, one o' them fancy noo Sinclair PC Two

Where is the machine?



By our *Conversions Correspondent*

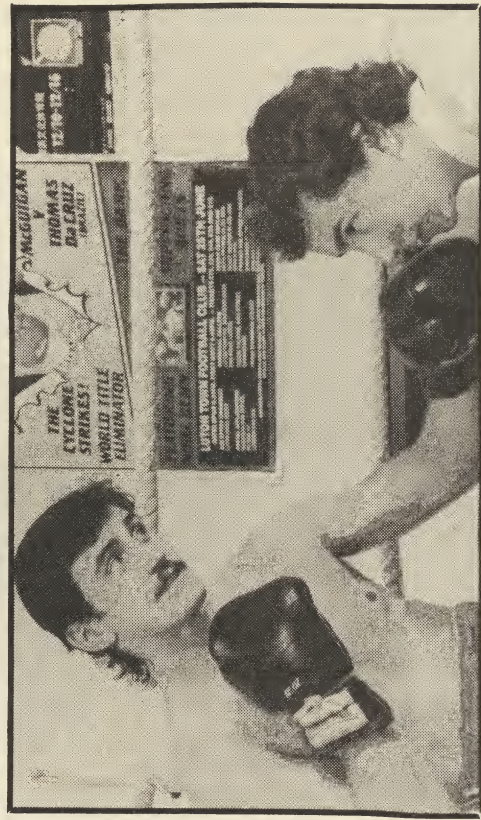
PLUCKY PUGILIST IN PR PALAVER

By our *Ringside Correspondent*

Now that the Alligata label has been acquired by Superior Software, a new age of dynamic marketing is beginning for the long-established company. In the case of the novel boxing simulation *By Fair Means or Foul* reviewed elsewhere in this issue – they've dug up has-been boxer Barry McGuigan.

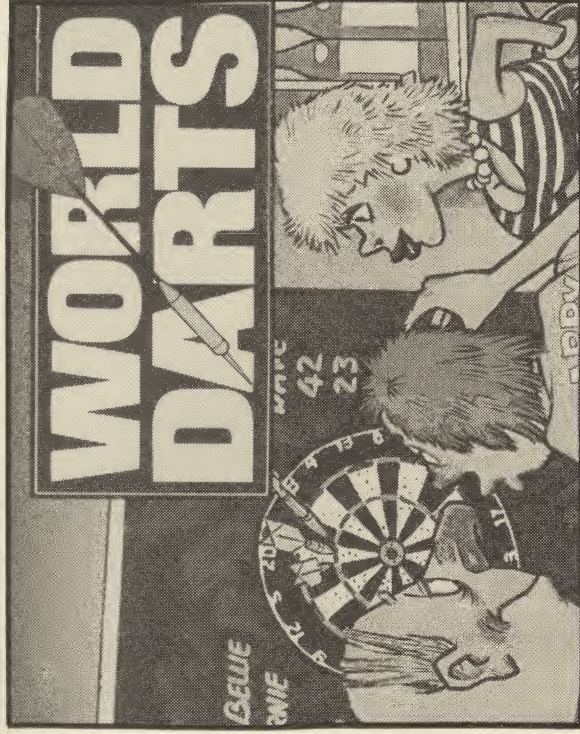
Here's Barry with BFMOF programmer Michael Simpson. Suggested captions include; "Call me a leprechaun again and you'll get a punch in the head"; "No Barry, look at the little men on the television"; and "Turn it over to Playschool now or o'll smash yer teeth in."

Any other suggestions, send them to Barry, not to us.



views) which is the third in the series of Tolkien games. It's a little bit confusing, then, to discover that it's pretty damned tricky to get hold of the 200 itself. Many

As a result, Amstrad have bestowed the honour of the initially exclusive PC200 sales upon the Comet chain, so if you want one, you know where to go. The Forthcoming Mastertronic titles:



The Forthcoming Mastertronic titles:

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Rogue	\$9.99	Storm	\$9.99
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Double Dragon	\$19.99	Metropolis	\$19.99
Sidewinder	\$9.99	Rockford	\$19.99

MEGATAPE IN "NOT-WORKING" SHOCK

By our *Correspondent*

Rumour – and a barrage of telephone calls to EMAP Towers – indicates that a small number of our Megatape 9s, featuring the marvellous Operation Wolf demo, were badly duplicated. As always, with the thousands we produce each month, it's inevitable that there are a few duff ones. Our apologies to anyone with problems.

If your Operation Wolf demo doesn't (demo, that is), try this procedure;

- 1) Make sure that the Spectrum is in 48K mode
- 2) Unplug any joystick or other interfaces you may have connected to the Spectrum
- 3) Try cleaning the heads on your tape recorder, or loading with a different volume.

If none of this works, we'll be happy to replace your tape. Send it to us in a strong envelope marked "GRRR! My MEGATAPE 9 doesn't work!". Sinclair User, Priory Court, 30-32 Farlington Lane, London EC1R 5AU. Don't forget to include your name and address. We have plenty of perfectly happy Megatape 9s here, and we'll send one to you before you can say Bernard Manning.

...and for Christmas. I up, one of them fancy noo Sinclair PC Two Millions. Then if ah get riled, ah can jump up an' down on a computer without damagin' anythin' valuable (huh huh huh!) But seriously, if ya wanna send the ol' Bear a pressie, ah'll accept any amount of Skittles, Rowntrees Fruit Pastilles, ammunition, Megadeath CDs or model tanks. Donations to charity not accepted.

I guess you-all will be wantin' to know about the noo face on the team. No, Jim hasn't had a head transplant; we've done a deal an' traded in Tamara (1967, chipped paintwork, big end gone) for Alison, a brand spankin' noo production editor with sunroof, metallic paint an' foglamps. Alison likes dancin' all night, drivin' around like a loon an' doin' cartwheels (not all at the same time). When she's settled in we'll let her do a few reviews. Until then, I gotta be on ma best behaviour in case all the swearin', shoutin' an' blasphemin' offends her delicate earholes. I dunno what we're goin' to do about HER swearin', shoutin' an' blasphemin'. Guess we'll just hafta live with it, huh.

OOOER! WHAT'S THIS NEW RATINGS BUSINESS?

OK we give in. The one thing you said you didn't like about **SU** was our rating system. "Not enough information," you said. So over the past few months in our secret laboratories we've been hatching a totally new system! You liked the Fax Box — we've kept it. You liked the summary comment — we've

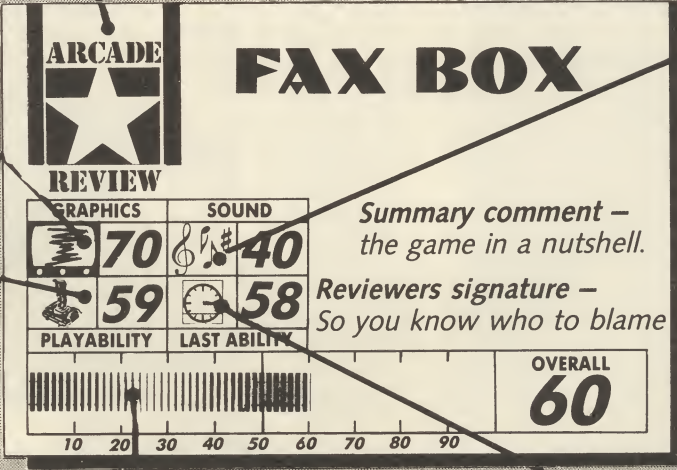
kept it. You wanted a rating for Graphics and Sound separately — you've got it. You wanted a rating for Playability — check it out. You wanted some idea about 'long term interest' we've called it 'Lastability'. You wanted percentage ratings — you've got 'em and a short overall summary which is the definitive final

statement of our opinion of the game.
N.B. Don't try and work out the final rating from adding up the others and dividing by four — it won't work like that — after all we wouldn't want a game to get a naff rating just because, say, the sound was poor, if sound wasn't really an important feature ■

What sort of game is this?

GRAPHICS
How completely fab, smooth and detailed and animated the game looks (or otherwise)

PLAYABILITY
OK maybe it looks fab but is it actually fun to play? Just one more go, or just one more yawn?



ARCAD
★
REVIEW

GRAPHICS	70	SOUND	40
PLAYABILITY	59	LAST ABILITY	58

Summary comment — the game in a nutshell.

Reviewers signature — So you know who to blame

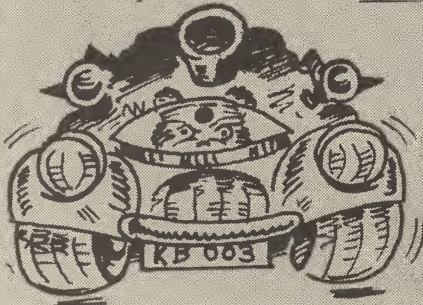
OVERALL 60

10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90

SOUND
Funky little 4-channel get on down mayhem, or horrible little bleeps and buzzes?

LASTABILITY
Are you still going to be playing this game in a day's time? A week? A month?

POWER BAR
Registers the final rating which takes all the above into account and is roughly the equivalent of the old star rating but more accurate since it expresses things as a percentage out of a total of 100



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A-I-R-B-O-R-N-E

Tora Tora Tora! Scream and die, right-wing imperialists running dog lackeys of the bourgeoisie capitalists! Wait a minute, that was the start of my review of **Fernandez Must Die** making an unscheduled reappearance. Well, if software companies can churn out the same ideas over and over again, why can't reviewers?

Airborne Ranger is not exactly what you'd expect from Microprose, who is famous for



extremely detailed and authentic simulations of helicopters, and games with vast manuals **Airborne Ranger**, though, is little more than a complex version of **Commando**, with a series of different missions and types of weapon

to make it play a bit more like a serious simulation. Having said that, I'm not saying it's BAD as such. All the detail and background is quite exciting.

There are 12 missions to complete, ranging from sabotaging enemy bases, to blowing up planes, to

kidnapping enemy officers. There are different types of terrain – temperate, tropical, arctic and so forth – and many different types of ground features including pillboxes, trenches, barbed wire, landing fields, communication bases and the like.

Your first task is to select your control method, then load up one of the 12 missions from tape. After studying the mission instructions, which you must follow closely to complete the level, you are shown a scrolling map of the landscape as your supply plane flies down it. You can drop two supply pods at any position on the map, then, on the signal, parachute yourself into a safe landing position. The screen then changes to the main combat routine.

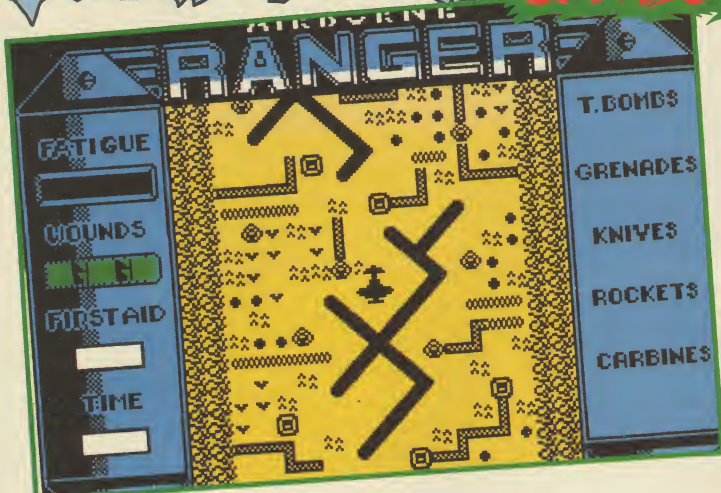
Your little hero makes his way around the screen, which



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scrolls in all eight directions. To the left is shown your fatigue rating, number of wounds and amount of first aid in your pack, along with the time remaining for the mission. In the right is your weapons supply, and currently selected weapon. Using the number keys (and keyboard overlay supplied) you can select weapons including time bombs with three different lengths of fuses, grenades, knives, rockets, or your trusty carbine. Your aim is shown by a small cursor in front of you, but in the absence of decent sound

effects or clear explosion graphics, it's difficult to tell what you shot, and what is still a threat. Dangers include enemy troops who trot towards you firing wildly, machine guns mounted in pillboxes, and landmines.

By picking up your supply pods you can restore your first aid status and ammo supplies. You can also choose to crawl along (slow but safe), walk (more risky, but restores your energy) or run (fast, but saps

energy). Graphically fair, reasonably complex but rather difficult to control, **Airborne Ranger** falls a bit uneasily between simulation and arcade game. See before you buy■

ARCADE

REVIEW

FAX BOX

AIRBORNE RANGER Label: **Microprose**
 Author: **Canvas** Price: **£12.95** Memory: **48K/128K** Joystick: **various**

GRAPHICS	SOUND
67	42
PLAYABILITY	LAST ABILITY
56	73

Interesting but not staggering military simulator.

Reviewer: *Chris Jenkins*

OVERALL 72

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- 2) Name the 70's TV show starring lots of puppets which is about to receive the same treatment.
- 3) Pyramids are constructed from: (a) squares (b) shredded wheat (c) stones.

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It's reviewed this month (page 58 to be precise) but just so you get an idea what it's all about, I'll outline the plot. Humans have been a right dodgy lot by the alien races and Rex has been hired to wipe out the last human strong hold, the tower of Zenith. He wanders around hundreds of caverns in



search of more and more powerful weapons. On the way, he has to blast away armies of human stormtroopers in an astoundingly graphic fashion.

The graphics are probably the most detailed and ultra-violent to appear on the Spectrum for ages. It's brilliant, and we think you should be shot in the head if you don't order one.

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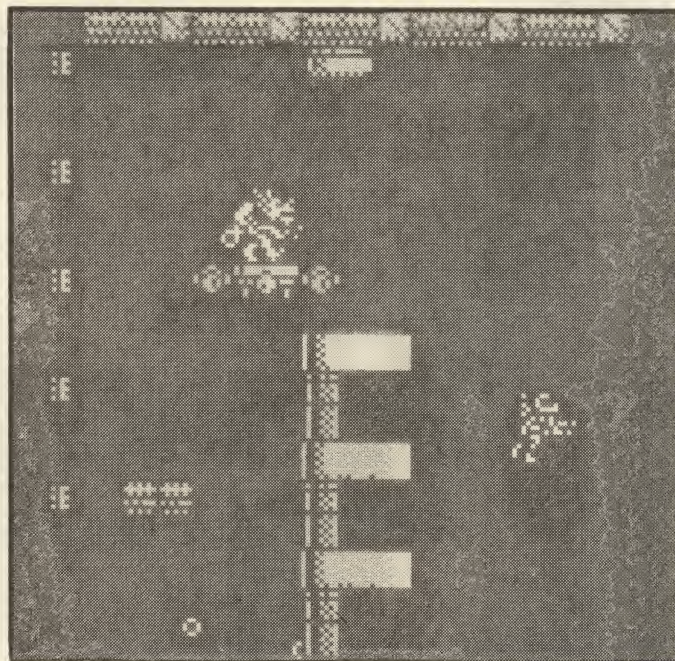


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A review of Typhoon by yummy squidgy Tony Dillon appears in this ish and pretty damn def (that means good to you lot) he thinks it is too. It would usually cost a massive £7.95 and we're being



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4	PETER BEARDSLEY'S FOOTBA
5	GOLD SILVER AND BRONZE

1	ROAD BLASTERS
2	OUT RUN
3	TARGET RENEGADE
4	OVERLANDER
5	WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

CHART COMMENT — FULL PRICE

A few mild shocks this month. Daley Thompson is a bit of a surprise for the top slot given the lad's poor showing in the Olympics. Bard's Tale is doing about twenty times better than any adventure thing in recent history. Road Blasters drops a couple and Overlander hurtles in at No 8. About this only the brave will comment... Good to see a high showing for Grand Slam's Peter Beardsley's Football but could we have a copy please?

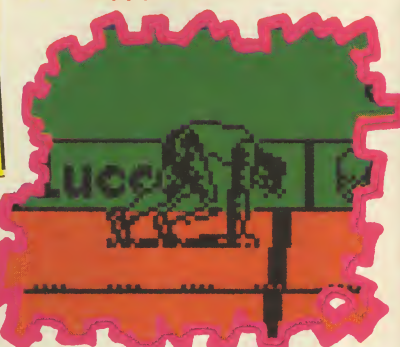


CHART COMMENT — BUDGET

Wooooomph! Bomb Jack at No 1 reveals itself as the perfect budget game we always thought it was. Gauntlet is an absolute bargain on budget — you think so too since it's No 3. Only On the Bench from Cult at No 2 proves you don't always listen to what we tell you...



SUCHARTS

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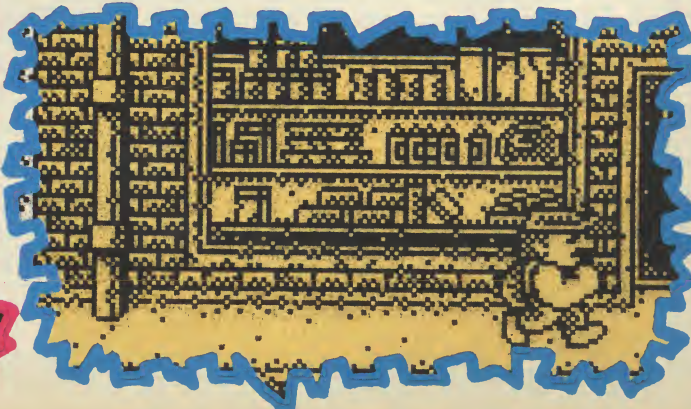
Difficult to predict on Full Price this month – the Christmas megagames are getting closer and closer and could put some of the 'bubbling unders' out of the running if they arrive and swamp the charts. Still, expect Vindicator which is creeping in at 19 to do better and expect 19 which is at 17 (confusing isn't it) to go top ten. Finally.

1	NEW! BOMB JACK Action packed coin-op conv – good value	ENCORE £1.99 70%
2	NEW! ON THE BENCH Sub-standard football sim – leave well alone	CULT £1.99 23%
3	NEW! GAUNTLET Fantastic coin-op – fantastic conversion!	KIXX £2.99 85%
4	(6) ACE High quality combat flight simulation	CASCADE £2.99 78%
5	(5) BATTLESHIPS Good fun, but more fun with pencil and paper	ENCORE £1.99 69%
6	(9) YOGI BEAR Cutesey-wootsey Piranha re-release	ALTERNATIVE £1.99 70%
7	NEW! SKOOLDAZE Zany classroom fun - worth a look	ALTERNATIVE £1.99 64%
8	(7) FRANK BRUNO'S BOXING One of the best beat-'em-ups of all time	ENCORE £1.99 82%
9	(1) EUROPEAN FIVE A SIDE Good, but not as good as it could have been	FIREBIRD £1.99 70%
10	(2) AIRWOLF Re-release of a fiendishly difficult arcade adventure	ENCORE £1.99 79%

HOT BUDGET

Skooldaze ought to crack the No 1 spot within a month – only Gauntlet gives this loopy platform and ladders game any real opposition. Expect big

things of Joe Blade II which is lurking just outside the 20 and Skateboard Construction Kit looks a possible top five. Players could clean up.



Put yourself and your driving skills against the clock and computer controlled opponents to challenge for the Victor's Cup. Off-Road, Racing is a test of speed and survival. Customise your vehicle and prepare to race over the world's toughest terrain.

DON'T MISS THE MAD SCRAMBLE FOR

4X4TM OFF-ROAD RACING

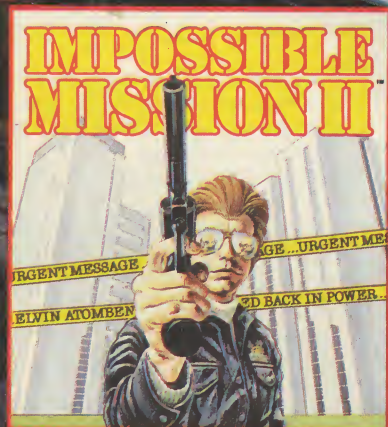


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'Mad Scramble' Competition

See the bike at the PCW Show.

For details of the competition see the inlay card.

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AMIGA
£24.99 disk

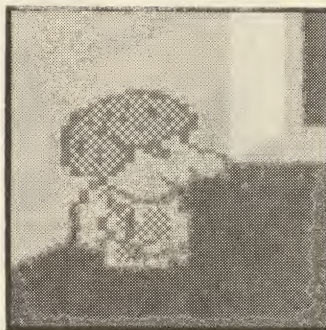
IBM PC
£19.99 disk

EPYX

TRIVIAL PURSUIT – A NEW BEGINNING

If you were trapped on planet Earth and it was steadily disintegrating and your only hope was to escape via six other planets to the planet Genus 2 how would you attempt to get there...? By super whooshy spaceship, by yelling 'beam me up Snotty' or by hitching a piggy-back from Billy Whizz? Noo noo noo you'd simply answer the question 'What time in the afternoon does the Louvre close?'

Confused? Well I'm not ruddy well surprised. Let me explain what's going on (wondered when you'd get round to that – GT). This is the way to play Trivial Pursuit – A New Beginning – an alien gobliny thing asks you an obscure and inane question – if you can answer it correctly he will let you leave his planet to visit another and answer some more questions. On the way you also have to collect strange objects. Once



you've answered all the questions on all the planets and galaxies between Earth and Genus 2 you have completed your mission. Simple eh? (No not really – everybody in the whole world).

Now here's your chance to find out what this New Beginning is all about because we are offering a mega Smash coupon of £1 off this groovy new game.



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A NEW BEGINNING

Send coupon (and your name and address) to: Trivial Pursuit – A New Beginning Smash Offer, Domark Software Ltd, Ferry House, 51-57 Lacy Road, London SW15 1PR, along with a cheque/postal order for £13.95 made payable to: Domark Software. Offer closes January 30th.

SU
SMASH OFFER



MAGIC KNIGHT

Although you can have hours of fun playing the Magic Knight Trilogy on your +3 by loading it from

tape – you might want to have a version on disc. **SU** has arranged a special offer with Mastertronic to supply Magic

Knight Trilogy discs at £2.00 off the usual retail price of £9.99 – £7.99 inclusive of postage and packing.

This offer is only open to **SU** readers! Sneer at your friends who pay more! Load things really quickly! Looks better in pockets. Make a cheque payable to Virgin Mastertronic for £7.99 and send it to Lesley Walker, 2-4 Vernon's Yard, Portobello Road, London W11 2DX.

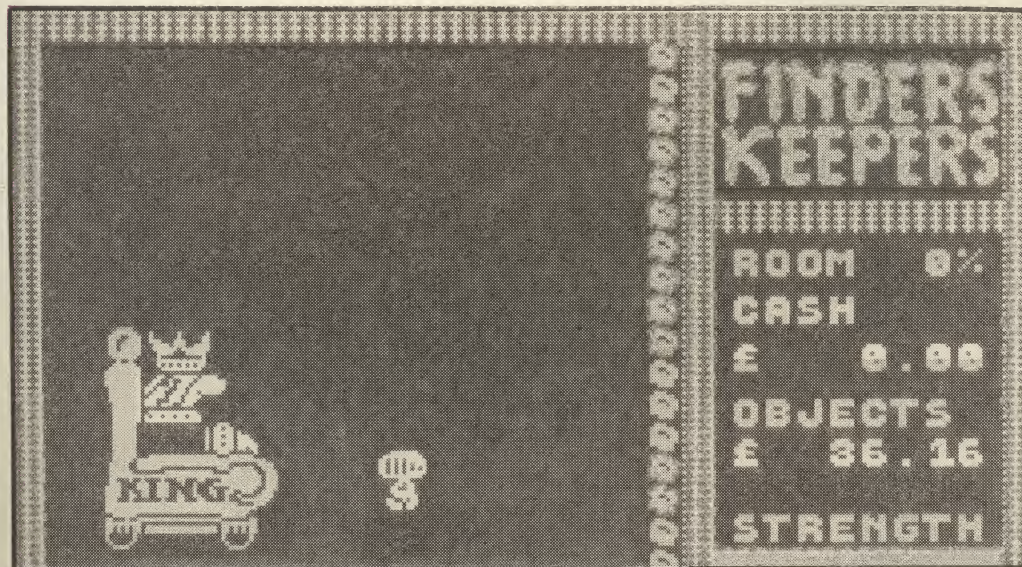


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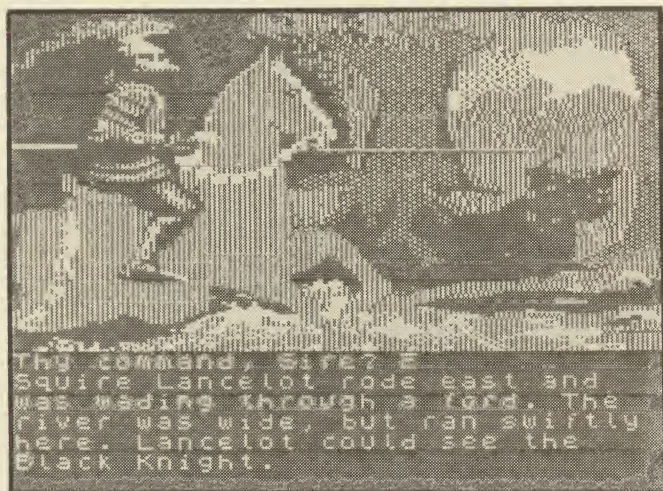
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GAMES REVIEW

Lancelot

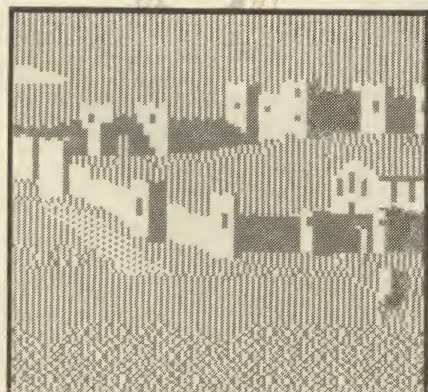


Prithee journey with me to a time in our past when men were chivalrous and women were simpering wimps – sorry, I mean damsels in distress!

Lancelot is a three part adventure following the exploits of Squire Lancelot through his knighthood and eventual quest for the Holy Grail.

It is based on Sir Thomas Malory's book *Le Morte D'Arthur* which was originally published by William Caxton in 1485.

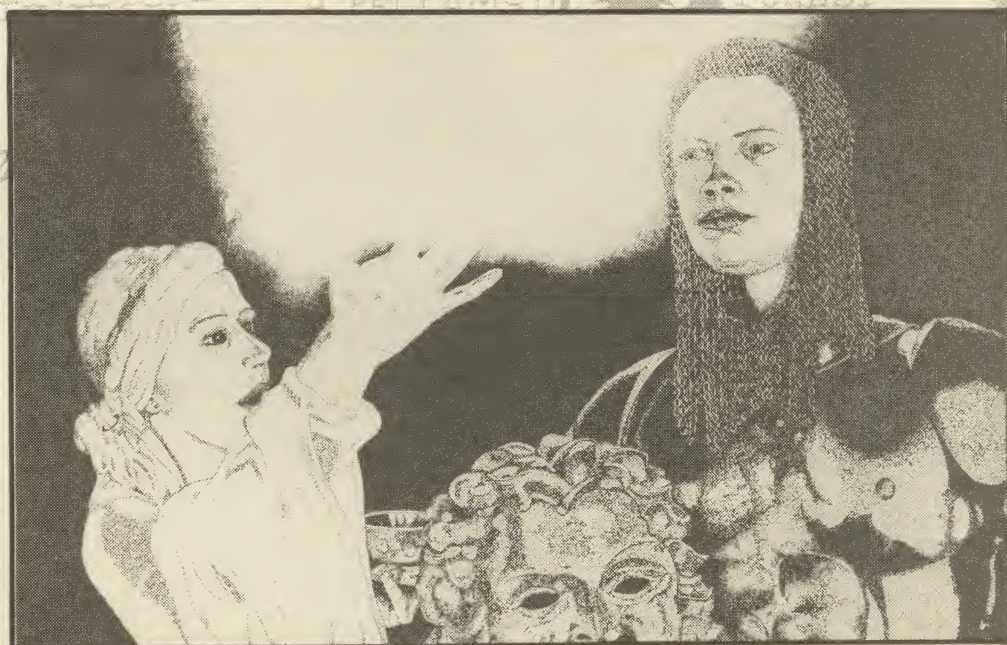
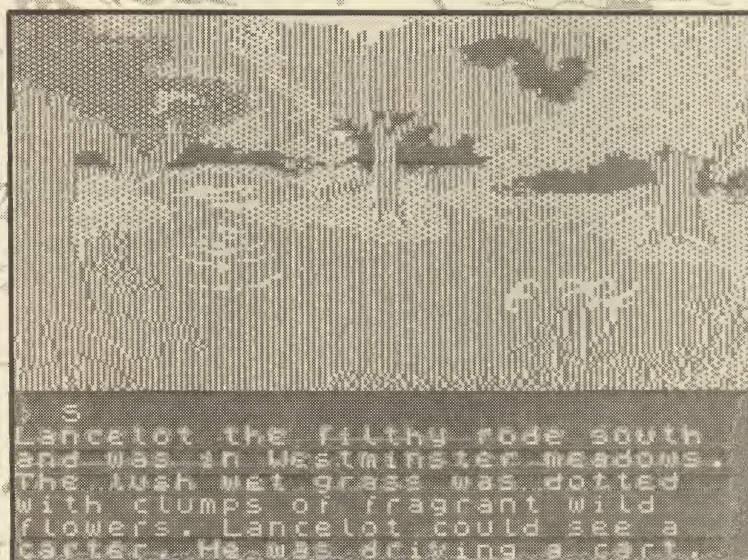
The book that is enclosed

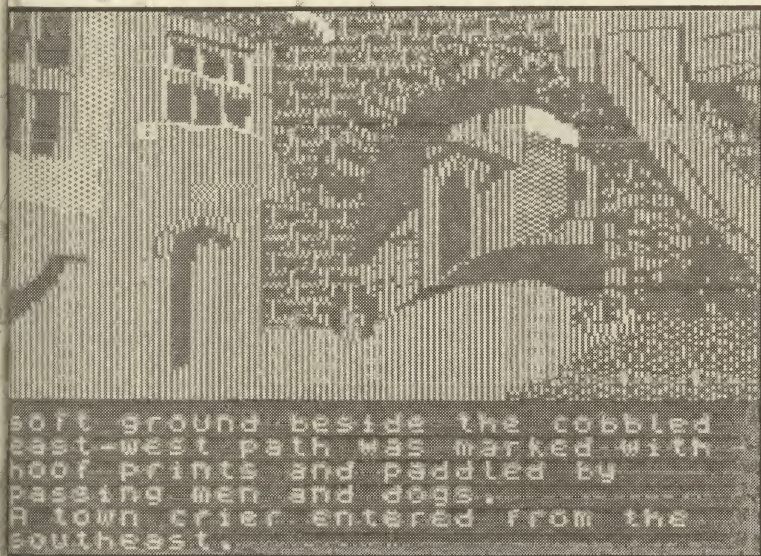


play the various parts. The text is vaguely old world but Level 9 have avoided going over the top with this and on the whole

the words used are easily understood.

Lancelot is available for all Spectrum formats with some

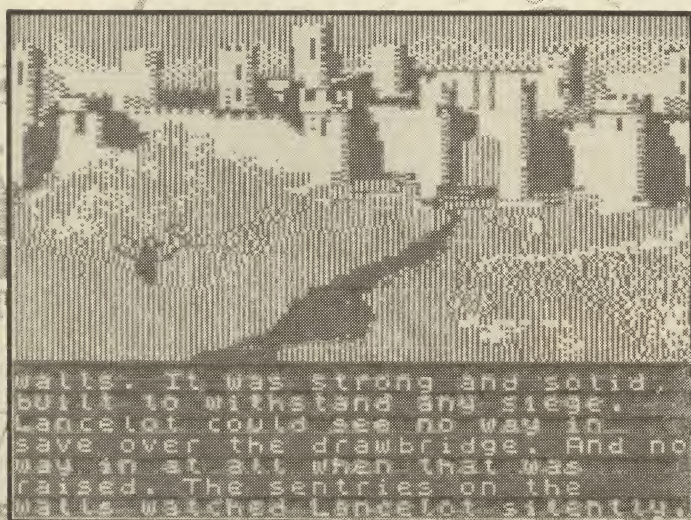




added features on the Plus 3 version. One of the files on the disc is a README file which gives you a little more information. To use it, turn on the machine, select Plus 3 Basic and enter LOAD "READ ME".

do the chilvarous thing and spare him.

Good job you did that, for the anonymous knight is none other than King Arthur himself who just happens to have a few of his men hiding in the bushes



You can recall and edit previous commands, RAM SAVE/RESTORE and UNDO several times in succession – very handy when you do something wrong.

Whilst playing the adventure you will notice that some words come on screen in capital letters. Make a note of them as they are vital to the competition that is being run in conjunction with the game. Full details of the competition will be found in the packaging and the prize is well worth winning. It's a solid silver Grail worth £5,000, so this really is a Quest for the Holy Grail.

You begin the adventure as a humble squire. Upon journeying to the east you are challenged by a Black knight. Accept his challenge and you will defeat him, you will be given the choice of sparing his life or ending it. If you know what's good for you then you'll

journey to the city and find a bed for the (k)night (groan!!!).

When you enter the city you will meet the odious Sir Kay, half brother to Arthur, and a really slimy toad. He tells you to go to the mews to sleep, but if you've any sense you'll pop along and visit Merlin. Merlin will give you a comfortable clean bed and some sound advice.

Whilst you are in Merlin's abode it would pay to visit his library and read a few of his books, you'll pick up some valuable hints. Persist with the reading until the same messages begin to come up again. Now it's time to visit Arthur and receive your knighthood.

You can converse with the characters by typing something like ARTHUR, GREETINGS. You can also ask the characters to do something for you by typing LAVAIN, WAIT THEN PUSH THE GATE or whatever it is you want them to do.

Arthur's court is where you catch your first sight of Queen Guinever and feel the first glimmerings of your hopeless love for her. Just bide your time and Arthur will eventually give you your knighthood.

Arise Sir Lancelot, your adventure is about to begin.

The first place to go is Logris, and you don't need to travel location by location, a simple GOTO LOGRIS will take you there and also give you your first meeting with DAMSEL MALEDISONI. She's a real honey (I don't think), as you will no doubt find out as you progress through the adventure. She will give you your first quest.

So, it's off to LYONESSE and your first damsel in distress. Her hawk has escaped and its luns are caught in the branches of a nearby tree. Well, no good knight would ignore a lady's tears would he? But, before removing your armour and dropping your sword, pick

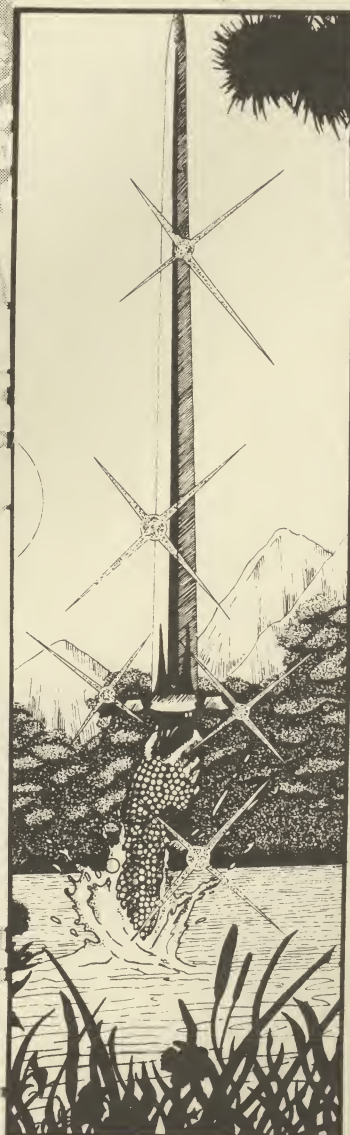
up a nearby dead piece of wood. After releasing the bird and descending from the elm tree you will discover that you have been duped. Throw the wood at your opponent to defeat him and you will avoid certain death.

There are lots of 'kill you offs', but Merlin is always around to resurrect you.

Of course, any adventurer worth his/her salt knows that you should always save the game regularly, and certainly before trying anything hazardous.

I found Lancelot very easy to get into. Mapping the game is easy enough and the landscape is well worth exploring to fully absorb the atmosphere of Arthurian times, and there's plenty to explore.

Lancelot is up to the usual high standard we have come to expect from Level 9. It's a thoroughly enjoyable journey into the past, and with the added bonus of a prize worth £5,000 to compete for, can you afford not to buy it? Methinks not!■



ARCADE



REVIEW

FAX BOX

LANCELOT

Author: Level 9

£14.95/Disc

48K/128K

Label:

Mandarin

Price: Tape

£19.95

Tape/128K

Memory:

Disc

GRAPHICS

65

SOUND

N/A

80

85

PLAYABILITY

LAST ABILITY

Corking L9 fare – buy at once

Reviewer:

Sandra Sharkey

OVERALL

83



ARCADE



REVIEW

GRAPHICS

62

71

PLAYABILITY

64

LAST ABILITY

60

64

OVERALL

68

10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90

FAX BOX

BY FAIR MEANS OR FOUL Label: Super-ior Software Author: C Goodwin Price: £7.95/£12.95 Memory: 48K/128K Joystick: various

Fairly entertaining boxing sim with some below-the-belt tactics

Reviewer:

Chris Jackson

OVERALL

68



duck, low guard, move back, high guard, jerk back and head butt. Head butt! Yes, it might be a foul move, but it's quite permissible in BFMOF.

With the fire button pressed, you have the options of punch, upper cut, kick (another foul), groin punch (an extremely painful foul), body blow, low guard, knee and high guard. Control moves are reversed if your character gets in a clinch

you punch and kick him to oblivion.

Oh yes, the foul blows. You can only get these in if the ref's attention has strayed. You can judge this from the colour of the silhouettes above the ring; red, no chance, amber, maybe, green, go for it. If you're caught making a foul blow, the ref will stop the fight and you'll be penalised.

Energy bars below the screen show your

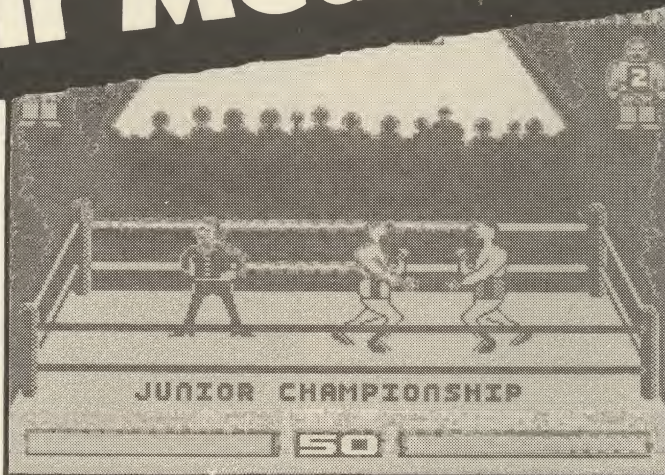
By Fair Means or Foul



Is a great sport, knoworrimean 'arry? Two muscle-bound clods battering each other senseless until one has so much brain damage that he falls over (or starts doing ketchup adverts). **By Fair Means or Foul** isn't the first boxing simulation on the Spectrum - Elite's **Frank Bruno's Boxing** is back in the charts again as a budget re-release - but **BFMOF** is by far the funniest, 'cos in this one you can cheat.

Basically it's a one or two-player combat game, featuring a selection of fighting moves which, shall we say, don't all conform to the Queensbury Rules. The ring is shown in slight perspective, and the two boxers share it with a dodgy referee who does his best to keep things clean - when he's not nodding off.

You can choose joystick or



keyboard control with definable keys, and



before starting you can choose any computer opponent (providing you have reached that level previously).

With the fire button released you have eight moves available; move forward, duck punch (which makes you look like a gibbon),

by moving too close to your opponent, and ends up facing right instead of left.

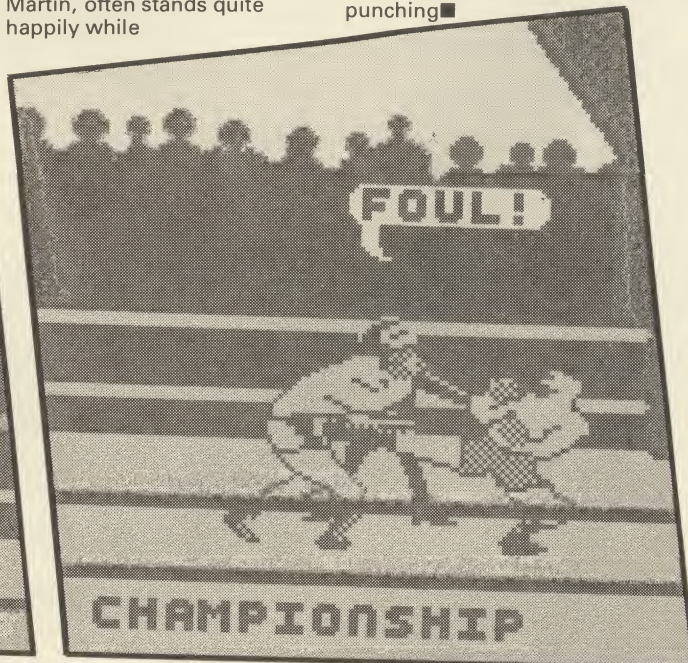
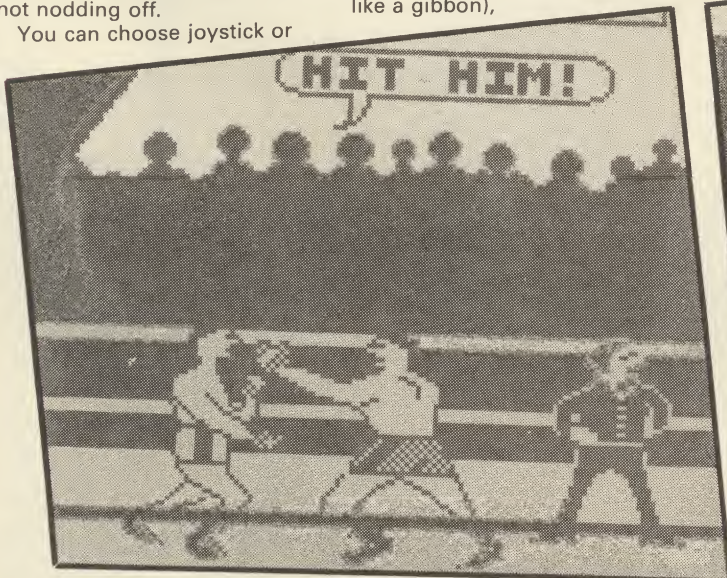
While the fighting moves are all pretty precise and useable, reactions are a little slow. Fortunately, on the early levels at least, your opponent is pretty slow too; the first fighter, Mild Martin, often stands quite happily while



status; your aim is to outpoint each of six opponents to become World Champion, after which the action carries on with more and more vicious opponents.

The audience is just as rowdy as you'd expect from the sort of people who patronise the noble art; shown outlined against the ring lights, they cheer loudly at the end of each round, joggle up and down enthusiastically and chip in with a range of friendly comments. Other nice touches include the winning boxer punching the air, and the thump as a good blow lands.

There are plenty of good points to **BFMOF**; the wide variety of fighting moves, the decent sound effects and music, the comments from the crowd ("C'mon Pansy!") and the ref, and so on. It isn't quite smooth or novel enough to make you scream with joy, but it will pass a few pleasant hours of head-punching.



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WARS**
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Level Two sees you controlling Chewbacca's Scout Walker.

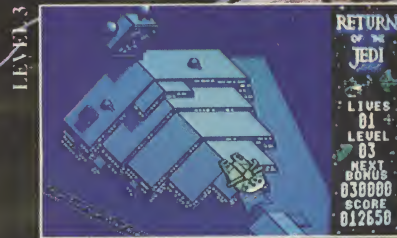
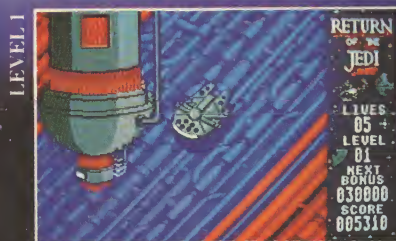
On level Three you are Chewbacca and Lando flying the Millennium Falcon.

Fight off T.I.E. Fighters, survive the lethal tube,

blast the reactor and turnaround from the exploding Death Star.



A
MAJOR
ARCADE
COIN-OP
HIT



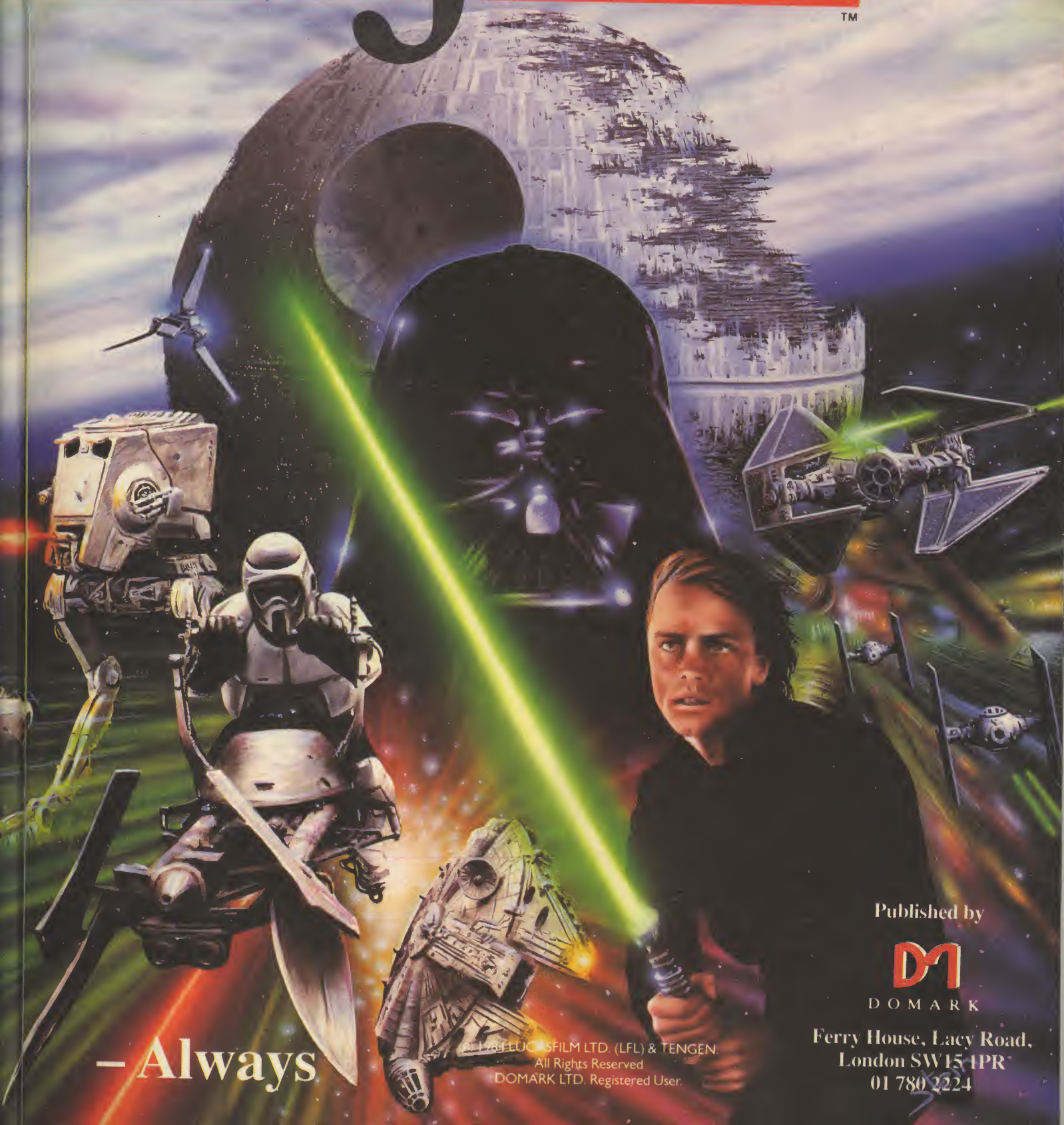
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Trivial Pursuit

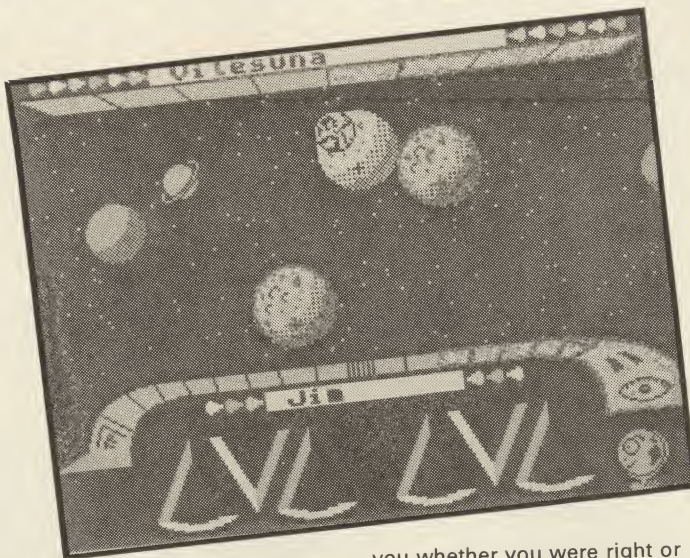
One of the biggest hits of last year (on all formats) was **Trivial Pursuit**, the computer version of the yuppie board game. After much head-scratching regarding a follow-up to this lucrative licence, those arch-yuppies, Domark, have come up with a strange sequel concept. Get your head ready for this – Trivial Pursuit in space. Weird, Yah?

Cut away all the trimmings, and what you have is still a multi player question and answer general knowledge quiz. The trimmings, then, are all that stands between **TP** – **ANB** and the hordes of lookalike trivia games. What's it all about then, lads?

Earth is dying, victim of the atmospheric greenhouse effect. You and your friends have the chance to escape by spaceship, but you will not be allowed to stay in the alien federation unless you prove your general knowledge skills. Tough cookies, these aliens.

There are six galaxies to explore before you reach the planet Genus 2. Each galaxy contains many planets, some of which contain objects which you must collect to complete your quest. The only way to find the objects is to land on each planet in turn, and answer a question from the alien inhabitants.

The graphics aren't much to look at; the planets have a number of different backgrounds, and different designs and colour of aliens. There are some neat effects as you materialise and



dematerialise, but unremarkable sound effects; the odd blip and bleep, a bit of single-channel music to illustrate some of the questions, and so on.

Up to six players can compete, entering their names on the main menu screen, and taking it in turns to answer questions. If you get one wrong, you miss a go and suffer a time penalty. The players are represented by amusing icons, and TP, the gnome-like character from the original game, puts in an appearance too.

One problem is that the game doesn't actually require you to type in your answers; the computer just prints up the questions, you yell out your answer, and the computer asks

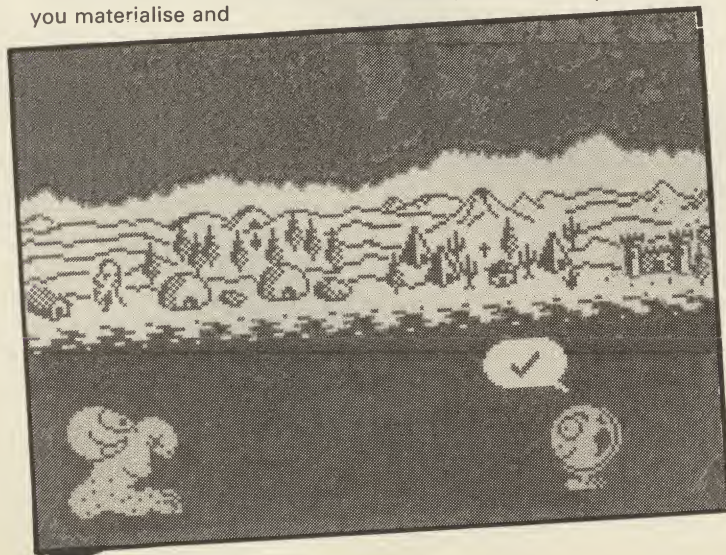
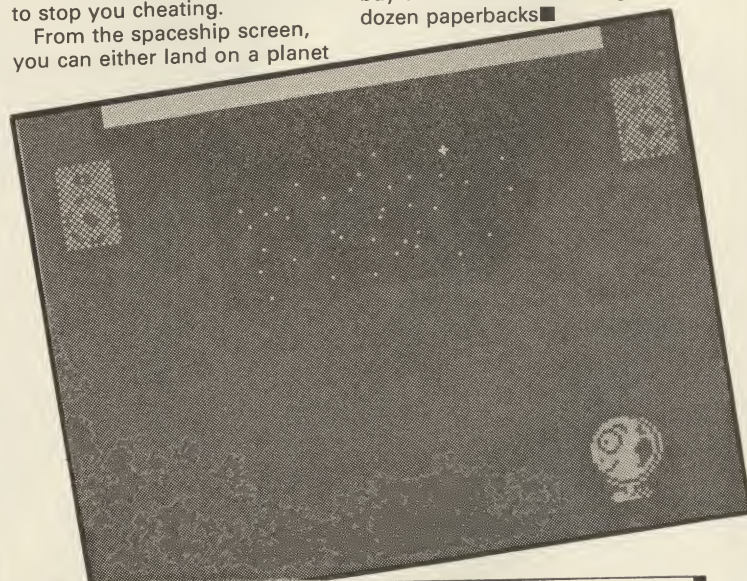
you whether you were right or not. Obviously, there's nothing to stop you cheating.

From the spaceship screen, you can either land on a planet

or access the main menu, where you can check how many objects you are carrying, quit the game, enter new players, switch sound effects on and off and load new sets of questions from the second cassette provided with the package.

In the final round you have to choose one of the Elders of Genus and answer his questions to make good your escape. If you choose the correct elder, the other players can examine your performance chart, and select the category of questions in which your performance is worst.

What it boils down to is, is it worth spending £15 or £20 on a trivia quiz? That's all it is; the graphics and effects don't add anything to the concept. Myself, I'd rather have a good nosh-up, buy a CD or two or even get a dozen paperbacks.



ARCADE
★
REVIEW

FAX BOX

TRIVIAL PURSUIT – A NEW BEGINNING Label: Domark Author: Oxford
Digital Enterprises Price: £14.95/£19.95
Memory: 48K/128K Joystick: various

GRAPHICS	SOUND
44	32
PLAYABILITY	LAST ABILITY
43	60

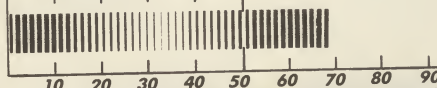
Novel version of a very simple quiz concept

Reviewer:

Tony Dillon

OVERALL

59



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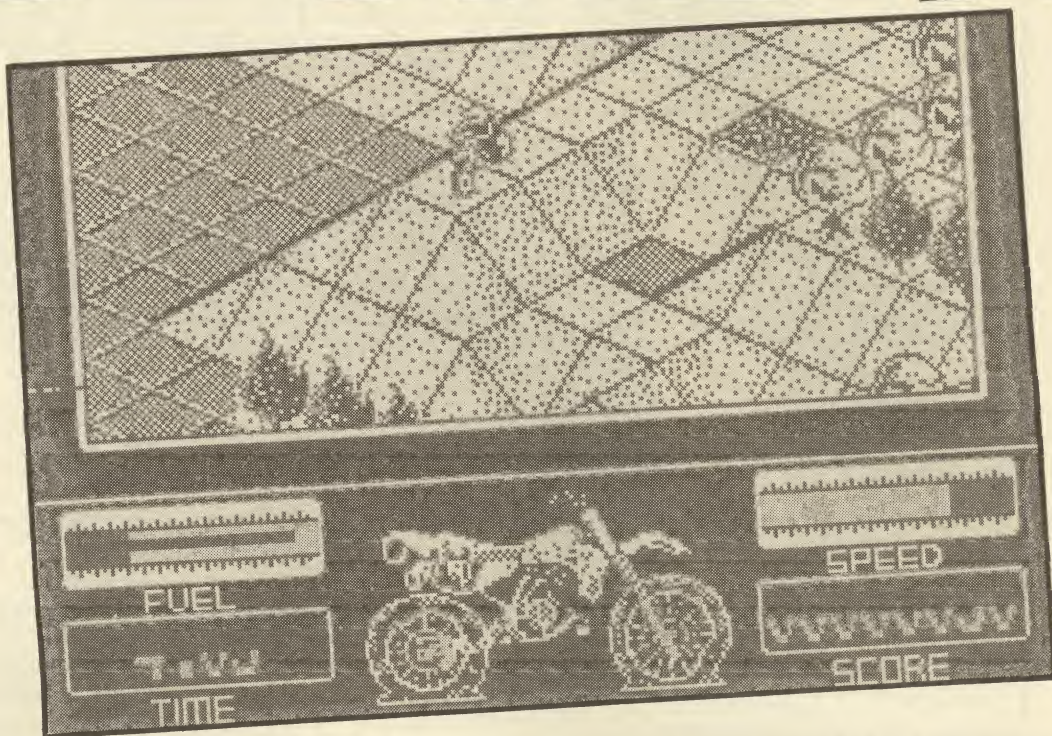
MOTORBIK

Strap on your leather gear, stick your helmet on your head and get ready to burn some rubber. **Motorbike Madness** makes **Kikstart** look like Noddy's Scooter Ride, and if you can master it you're just about ready for the Barry Sheene Tin Leg Award.

The 10 levels of obstacle-avoiding zaniness are loaded separately from the tape. The landscape is in many ways similar to that of the classic **Glider Rider**; about half the screen, scrolling in all four



directions, shown in glorious monochrome and consisting of various slopes, planes and ramps. Your task is simply to steer your motorbike around each course, avoiding all the obstacles and heading for the

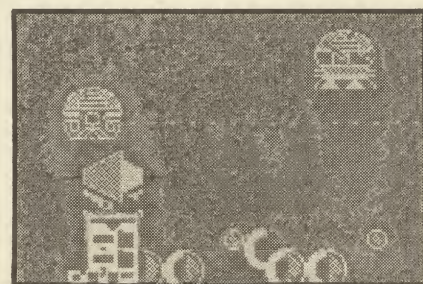
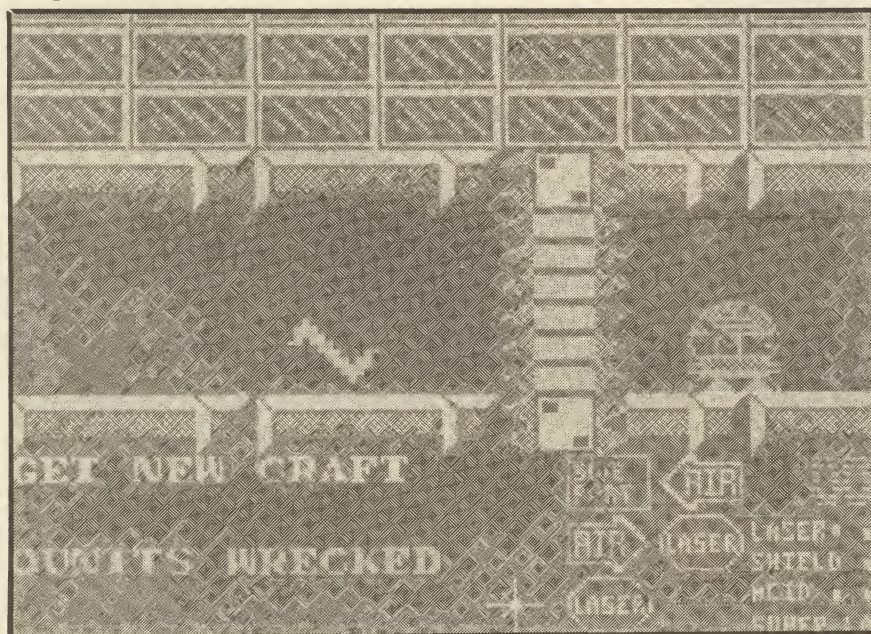


Metaplex re-review

When I reviewed Addictive's **Metaplex** last month, I was under the impression that it was to be released as a full-priced title and thus reviewed it so, calling it "... the worst full price game around at the moment ... " and gave it the following marks:

Graphics: 36, Sound: 26, Playability: 68, Lastability: 15, Overall: 42.

In the light of the price reduction from £9.99 to £1.99, I have re-evaluated the game. I have now awarded it an Overall mark of 47 in view of the slight increase in value. The other marks remain the same as, whatever the cost, the game is still as bad as when I first reviewed it. I say again, try again lads!



E MADNESS



way around the course. Fortunately, if you get knocked off, you're returned to the last ramp you jumped, rather than right back to the start of the level.



The 10 levels are ridges, floodlands, parapets, slopes, maze, origin, hillside, speedway, mud trouble and final. Goodness knows what the later levels look like, because I'm having enough trouble slogging my way through level one. Sound is OK, but for some reason you have to reload each level after losing all your lives.

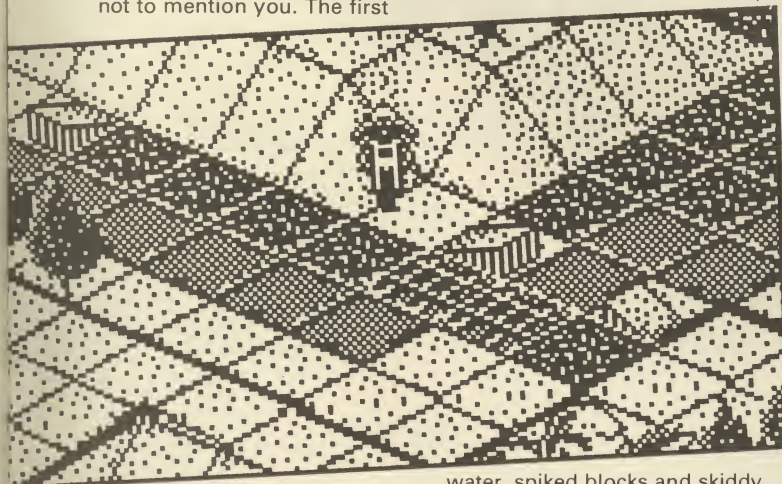
Great fun, then, but too difficult for my feeble brain ■

gate to the next stage before time runs out.

But it isn't that simple, is it Barry? No, because the landscape is littered with things which are likely to turn your bike into a little heap of scrap, not to mention you. The first

your bike is shown on the display at the bottom of the screen, and each bit of damage impairs your performance more.

Other hazards to contend with include patches of cinders,

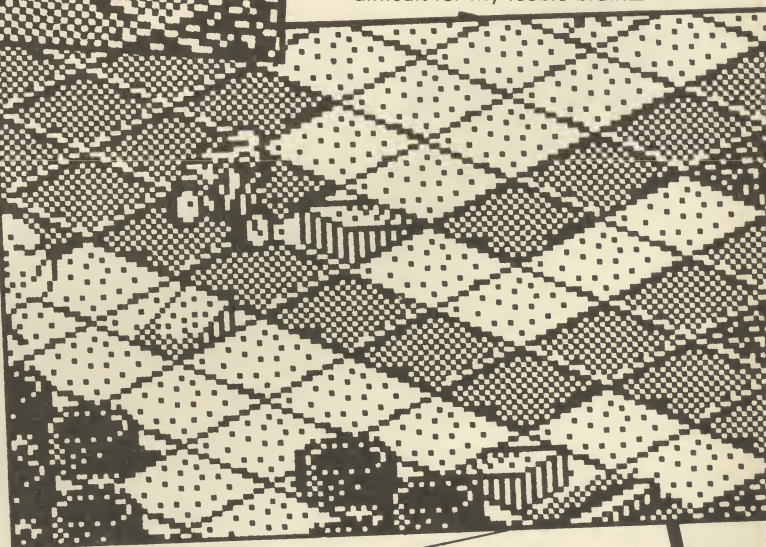


challenge is a ramp. Steering carefully around the trees, simply pushing the joystick in the direction you want your front wheel to turn, you must line up with the ramp, build up speed (shown on the bar graph to the right of the screen) and zoom over the ramp, veering sharply to the right to avoid a pile of tyres. Too slow, or inaccurately lined up, and you'll end in a crumpled mess, probably sustaining a punctured tyre or leaking petrol tank in the process. Damage to

water, spiked blocks and skiddy patches. It's pretty blinking difficult to control the bike, though; it tends to jump suddenly from left to right, rather than coming around



smoothly. I don't know if this is deliberate, but it makes it remarkably difficult to concentrate on finding your



ARCADE

REVIEW

GRAPHICS

75

PLAYABILITY

68

SOUND

59

LAST ABILITY

69

10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90

74

OVERALL

74

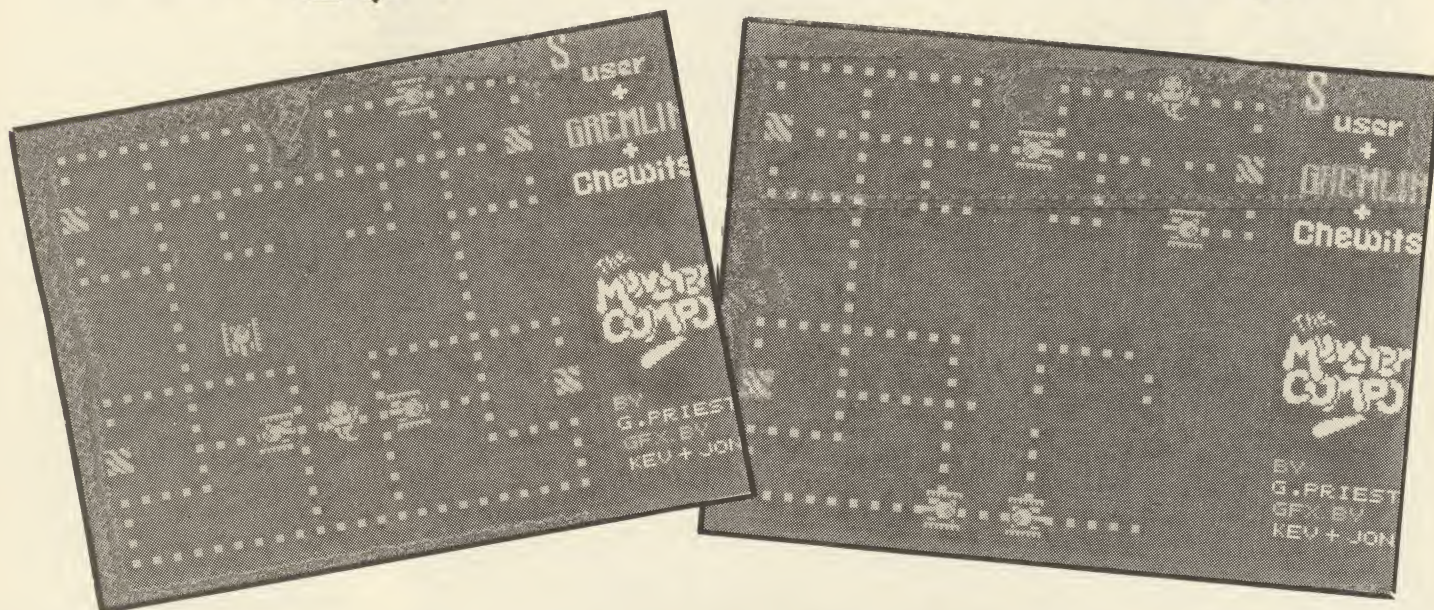
Reviewer: Chris Jenkins

peachy over-hard scrambling spoofer.

Label: Master-
tonic Author: Binary Design Price: £1.99
Memory: 48K/128K Joystick: various

Graphically

COMPETITION



WIN A YEAR'S SUPPLY OF CHEWITS

Zounds! **SU** in its well known tradition of doing-fab-new-things-that-everyone-else-will-copy-very-soon brings you the first ever all action tape competition! We thought to ourselves, what could we add to the vast amounts of stuff already on the Megatape to make it even more exciting? What about a competition we thought and knowing what a greedy and competitive lot you all are, we have created the **CHEWITS** game.

TO PLAY THE GAME

- 1 Load up the special **Chewits** game section of the Megatape — it's after the preview of the amazing **Techno Cop**. Use Load "".
- 2 Keys to play the game are Z left X right K up M down. Move around the Chewits dinosaur, chew up all the little dots and avoid contact with the tanks. In the four corners of the maze are special power Chewits. Eat these and the tanks go beserk for a time and start flashing. Your dinosaur can then munch the tanks — but only for a while!
- 3 If you manage to munch every single dot you will be given a special code phrase which will qualify you to enter for the grand **Chewits** prize!

THE PRIZE

The first lucky code unscrambler out of the bag will win **A YEAR'S SUPPLY OF CHEWITS!** That is 365 packets of Chewits of various flavours to keep your mouth busy throughout the year.

Nobody else will win anything at all apart from the chance to tell the world that they managed to get through the game. Brilliant eh?

COMPETITION ENTRY

Name

Address

.....

The mystery phrase at the end of the game is

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Members at EMAP (and there are quite a few of them) Gremlin or Chewits or dinosaurs or Wayne Smedly or Anthea Barton may not enter.



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Screenshots taken from ATARI ST.

Screenshots taken from SPECTRUM

REX

It had to happen. After years of being shot, stabbed, incinerated, blown up and mangled, the aliens have finally decided to get their own back. And what a spectacular revenge; **Rex** is a splendidly violent visual feast, a joystick-bendingly difficult challenge to the reactions, and an all-round jolly enjoyable experience.

Fed up with Earthmen refusing to pay their space parking fines, littering the asteroid belts and singing *Should Be So Lucky* in the cosmic pubs, a confederation of

aliens has sensibly decided to wipe out the whole lot of them. To do the job they've hired Rex, an alien mercenary who eats kittens for breakfast and who makes Kamikaze Bear look like Andy Pandy (GRRRRR... KB).

Rex is a high-tech rhinoceros armed with a formidable array of weapons, and his final task in the alien/human war is to destroy Mankind's last stronghold, the lower Zenith. He takes on the job with relish (and a little mayonnaise on the side).

The game loads in two parts;

you carry your score, weapons and attributes over to the second half using an access code.

Although the game features many of the attributes of **Cybernoid**, **Exolon** and several other recent titles, it looks quite different because all the graphics are on a small scale. This allows a huge amount of features to be packed into each screen. Fortunately, the characters and backgrounds are all excellently designed, so the sense of huge scale comes across very well.

Rex can walk and jetpack through the air, finally floating to the ground under the effect of gravity. Both he and the spacesuited humans are single-colour, while the backgrounds are a riot of colour and details;

belching missile projectors, mortars, rock faces, equipment modules, tunnels, tube trains and the like.

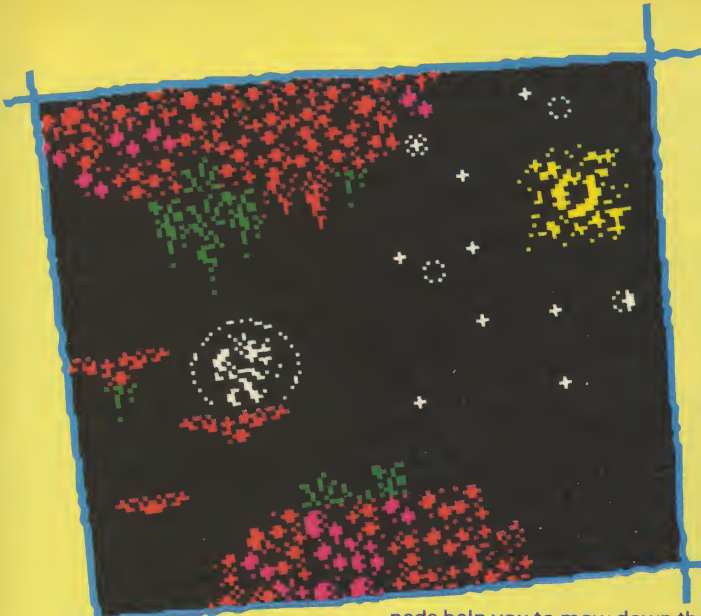
Stage two, the Living Tower, also features revolting organic components including writhing pink tentacles which are deadly to touch. Rex starts his quest in an underground chamber, appearing in a teleporter and immediately blazing away to take out the nearby weapons systems. A small arrow indicates the exit from the screen (some have multiple exits), and as you appear on the



new screen you should switch on your energy shield by pulling back on the joystick, in case a missile is aiming straight for your horn.

The shield runs out of energy as you use it. To recharge it you have to pick up energy bubbles left by destroyed emplacements and men. The laser-firing spacemen jerk backwards and expire messily when you shoot them; I must admit that this is one of the major fun points of the game. If you get killed yourself, the results are even more spectacular; an eyeball-quivering series of explosions which are worth seeing, even if it does mean losing a life.





Fortunately, there are lots of lovely weapons to be picked up from equipment holders, which let you stave off your inevitable destruction a little longer. Double and triple-firers, multi-way firers, and whirling defence

pads help you to mow down the humans with even greater efficiency. The more energy you have, the faster/further/wider your weapons fire.

There are also Zaps to be picked up; these act like smart-bombs, clearing an entire screen of enemies, and so should be saved carefully. It's tremendous fun working your way through the screens, using the anti-grav elevators, blast-away rocks and floating platforms to reach the Tower of Zenith and blow it to bits.

The only disappointment is the poor sound; there are no effects at all when you fire, and only a standard plip-plip-plip when anything explodes. Still, you can't have everything (unless you're Jim Douglas trying to decide what to order at Macdonald's). It's also annoying that you restart at the start of a stage, rather than on the same screen, when you lose a life. This means you have to renegotiate screens you've already completed, which I find a pain. Otherwise, Rex is marvellous fun if shooty-shooty arcade adventures are your bag. Obviously the product of some well experienced programmers, but for the moment, the identity of programming team The Light remains a closely-guarded secret. Look out for their next one.



FAX BOX

REX Label: Martech Author: The Light Price: £8.95 Memory: 48K/128K Joystick: various

Devastating debut of death-dealing and destruction

Reviewer:

OVERALL 88

GRAPHICS	SOUND
92	50
PLAYABILITY	LAST ABILITY
91	90

TWILIGHT

ADVANCED PINBALL

SIMULATOR Label: Code Masters Author: The Oliver Twins Price: £1.99 Memory: 48K/128K with Interface 1 Joystick: None Reviewer: Tony Dillon

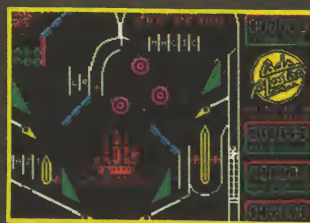
Below average pinball game with a ball that's got a mind of its own

Advanced Pinball Sim is just that. A sim of a pinball machine. Where does the advanced bit come in? This one has a plot. Something about some village being taken over by a mad wizard or something. Nothing worth worrying about.

As a pinball game it's pretty simplistic. There are a few bumpers here and there, the obligatory paddles and the odd target or two to be knocked out. Needless to say, it's all frightfully easy and amazingly boring. The whole thing that makes pinball exciting is the flashing lights and the tension as your metal sphere goes careering all over the shop, not seeing a little white circle bounce all over the screen doing absolutely no damage to your neves at all.

There is a little bit of speech at the beginning, that mutters something about pinball, but it's so bad, that I can barely make it out.

There you have it. Probably the worst Oily effort to date. You can tell



how they tackled the problem of complex gravitational fields, and even the complexities of inertia itself. "We won't have any", they said, "Let's let the ball go anywhere at random." ■

42%

JET SET WILLY II

ARCADE Label: Mastertronic Author: Matthew Smith Price: £1.99 Memory: 48K/128K Joystick: Various Reviewer: Graham Taylor

Famous platforms and ladders game. Looks dated now but is still tricky to play

Gawd, I used to look at this game when it first came out and wonder how it could ever be topped. It took a couple of months I think and Ultimate was the culprit. Anyway for those too young to remember, Jet Set Willy II was the follow up to Manic Miner (The II is misleading - it was just an enhanced version of Jet Set Willy). It involves moving a very very tiny little man around a not-very-impressive series of screens, collecting empty glasses. Graphically, these days it will make you laugh.

Still, playing the game again after all these years one point did strike me - the gameplay is still pretty excellent. There are some occasions where your position has to be pixel perfect if you want to survive. You might still get into it but don't expect it to look nice. ■

65%

POOLS

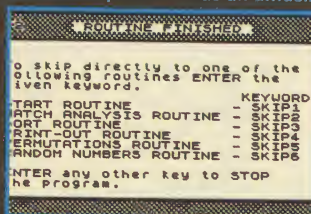
UTILITY Label: Basic Software Services Author: Y Douglas Price: £79.95/£84.95 Memory: 48K/128K Joystick: n/a Reviewer: Chris Jenkins

Mediocre pools prediction program at an unbelievably insane price

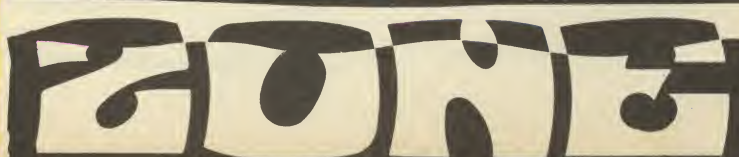
POOLS is a football pools prediction program supplied on a single cassette for the 128K version, or two cassettes - for a staggering £5 extra - if you want a 48K version. The two programs, though, are essentially the same. A series of plain text menus prompts you to enter the results for any number of teams, for any number of previous games. From all this info, the program calculates a set of odds and forecasts the results for future games - completely failing to take into account any factors such as weather, player changes, substitutions and so on.

If it was presented as an amusing

entertainment for £1.99, POOLS might be worth a laugh. At £79.95, it's hard to judge whether the author or any purchasers are the more barmy. ■



12%



TYPHOON

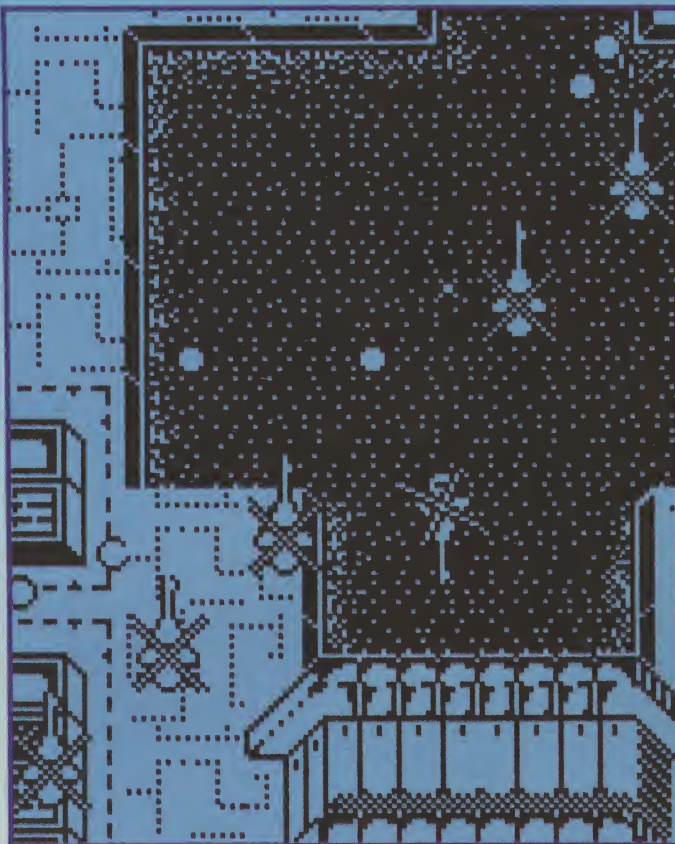
When someone first breathed breathlessly (?) in my ear "The conversion of Typhoon is here", my first reaction was "Who? What? When?" Then I thought of Hurricane Gilbert, laughed a bit, and then I thought "Oh. Must be an arcade game I've never heard of."

Typhoon is a little known (to my knowledge) Konami arcade game that we also had a demo of on our Megatape 8. The game is thus. Fly forward Afterburner-fashion for a bit, blow up a mothership, fly forwards Flying Shark-fashion for a bit, blow up another mothership, fly



upwards a bit more, do a bit more flying forward, blow up a few more more things and then you've done the game. Well, actually it's a bit more than that.

Typhoon is actually two games stuck together and, unfortunately, neither are in any



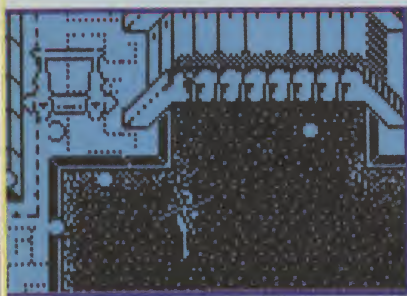
reach the mothership at the end, which is no more than an electric barrier, erected to stop you from passing. This needs to be shot down by continual bombardment while you avoid the waves of planes and helicopters that fly on from all four sides, fire at you, and then fly away again. On top of all that, there are ground turrets that have to be bombed by pressing B on the keyboard.

At some point during this stage, icons float from top to bottom. Collect these and you get an extra weapon, from a Vulcan (?) through things like lasers (very useful), 3-way fire, smart bombs and missiles. The

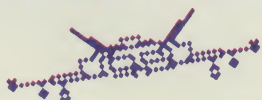


smart bomb is a pretty handy thing to have because it kills everything on screen, including bullets.

This level is difficult. Not because there's a lot of frantic activity going on at the same time, nor is it because of the response (which is very good),



serious danger of going anywhere above the the "Oh, that's pretty OK" mark on the **SU** Commentometer. The first section, as I said before, is an Afterburner jaunt down through the various cloud layers until you emerge above an aircraft



carrier, somewhere out at sea.

As you fly groundward, waves of enemy fighters emerge from the clouds and launch missiles at you, which are pretty easily avoided. Past all the fighters and on to the

carrier, the idea is to get in about five direct hits on the missile launcher, which is a bit more tricky considering that the launcher is doing its job (launching missiles) so you have to get between the missiles, fire, and then get out.

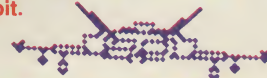
A moan about the graphics on this section. The update of the sprites is quite smooth, but the update on the backdrop is terrible. Whether this is close to the arcade I don't know, but it's still terrible. Also, the plane still

holds its completely horizontal position. How odd!

The second level is the one we were lucky enough to get on Megatape 8, the Flying Shark level. You now have left your F-14 behind and are flying a helicopter over a long vertically scrolling landscape that gradually gets more and more heavily defended until you



but because of the colour system used - blue and black - which makes it very difficult to see bullets, the enemy, yourself, the score, the TV/monitor... or in fact anything else. This does tend to lower the playability level quite a bit.



The following levels are merely the first and second repeated in different orders.

Typhoon is quite a good game and one well worth taking a look at, though the monochrome colour scheme might cause some problems, as it nearly always does.

ARCADE
REVIEW

FAX BOX

TYPHOON Label: *Imagine* Author: *Steve Lamb/Alison Jefftha* Price: *£7.95* Memory: *48K/128K* Joystick: *Various*

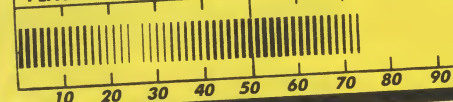
A nice bit of blasting, though the colour scheme makes it a little unplayable.

Reviewer: *Tony Dillon*

GRAPHICS	SOUND
73	69
PLAYABILITY	LAST ABILITY
74	71

OVERALL

72



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SU

POWER

There was a time when a game like **Power Pyramids** would have been a nice little thrill. On paper it sounds good; 128 screens of arcade-adventure action, as you guide a bouncing ball around the convoluted interiors of a series of space pyramids.

Unfortunately, this is 1988, guys, and this sort of thing doesn't quite cut it in a market where you're competing with technical marvels like **Carrier Command** and **Dark Side**.

In fact, not even the plot makes much sense. The alien T-Pyge have developed the concept of the Pyramids. Suddenly, everyone wants

enough, there's no joystick control, or anyway, I couldn't make the joystick work, and there's no mention of joysticks in the instructions, so I think it's safe to assume that there's no joystick control. Instead, you make the ball jump by pressing the CAPS SHIFT. Direction is completely dependent on what you bounce off; you can't change it in any other way. The only other option open to you is to use the space bar to activate the springy anti-grav pads, or to change the angle of the ramps. At some stages you have to pick up a speed changer to allow you to negotiate the tighter angles; also activated by pressing the space bar. While some of the little tricky

PYRAMIDS

Pyramids, and the T-Pyge are shipping them all over the universe. But WHY? No idea. Anyway, the pyramids are shipped in a dormant state, and have to be activated on installation.

You've just arrived in Earth orbit with four types of Pyramid; Basic, Super, Grand and Royal. To complete the job you have to guide an automated spheroid robot around the ramps and mazes inside the pyramids, activating all the hidden power points. Each pyramid features more screens and more hazards than the last, and there's at least one power point on each level.

The spheroid is in constant motion, and collisions with obstacles such as water, daggers, sparks and spikes cause it to lose energy. However, there are boosters which will recharge your energy when you dock with them, anti-grav pads which fling you high into the air when you activate them, and transporter spondules which whizz you to new locations. Strangely

bits are quite fun to work out, **Power Pyramids** has absolutely nothing to make you go "WHOOOO! Look at THAT!" The backgrounds are primitively drawn, with large amounts of black space. Because there aren't any moving objects except your flickering ball (on the early levels, anyway), there isn't much in the way of heart-stopping excitement; just the repetitive task of trying to bounce your way through the screens one after another. Not so much **Power Pyramids**, more Tacky Tetrahedrons■

ARCADE
★
REVIEW

FAX BOX

POWER PYRAMIDS Label: **Grandslam**
Author: **Julian Skelly** Price: **£7.95** Memory:
48K/128K Joystick: **none**

Underwhelming
arcade adventure
with more quantity
than quality

Reviewer:

OVERALL
42

GRAPHICS	SOUND
41	32
PLAYABILITY	LAST ABILITY
45	43



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Read the opening paragraph, then follow the instructions to find out which paragraph to move to next.

If you come into combat with any of the evil denizens of Mil-ton-keenz, you must follow this procedure: 1) Toss a coin. 2) Look at it. 3) Call heads or tails. 4) If you won your battle, follow the instructions in the next paragraph. If you lost, you really must be incredibly stupid.

Your aim is to complete the Seven Labours of Dean and return to Castle Deans-holme in time to catch Neighbours. All right, get on with it.

Lo, it was the Month of the Wounded Antelope when Sylvia, Mother of Dean the Barbarian, did summon him into the Living Room and charge him with seven great quests. "Dean", quoth she, "get thee to Mil-ton-keenz and return not until thou hast completed seven great quests. Any seven great quests will do. Oh, and get 20 Benson & Hedges for your old Mum."

Dean did hie himself to the Bus Station of Doom, and from there did set forth on his adventure.



4

At the newsagents. Now is that crucial time in your quest when you choose which magazine to buy. Which is it to be? *Cosmopolitan*? (go to 14.) *Sinclair User*? (go to 15). Or some lesser computer magazine, printed on earth-closet paper and written by fairies? (Go to 16, though I warn you, you won't like it).

5

At the Virgin Megabuck, hundreds of glossily-packaged vie for your attention. Which will you buy? Something by Stock, Aitken and Waterman, because "I know the artists are disposable but don't they have admirable production values"? (turn to 17). A James Brown classic (turn to 18). Or *We're All Acid Crazy Bonkers* by Doped-up Larry and the Smiley House People? (turn to 19).

6

At ye Foodstores, a wonderment of fried, baked, braised, grilled, microwaved and underdone nourishment hangs floppily from the food-vendors' stalls. At the left stands Elfin Jim the Butcher. "I got meat pies, meat sandwiches, meat rolls, meat on a stick, meat paste, meat cutlets and meat" he bawls. If you feel like a bit of meat, turn to 20. In the centre is The Silver Pixie Health food shop, festooned with buttercup cakes, daffodil burgers and watercress salad. If you like rabbit food, turn to 21. To the right is Mac Donagall's, where a hideous dwarf

0

Above the Bus Station of Doom were seven mystic signs, each the number of a magic om-ni-bus. Choose the bus service and move to the like numbered paragraph.

1) To ye Electronic Shoppes, where ye may repair thy damaged Spectrum. 2) To ye Coin-op Arcades. 3) To ye Software Shoppes. 4) To ye newsagents. 5) To ye Record Shoppes. 6) To ye Foodstores. 7) To ye Clothing Shoppes. Once you have completed all the seven challenges, go ye to 29.

1

Your Spectrum is ill, and your first great task is to have it repaired. Three repair shoppes meet your heroic gaze. One is a Dixonnes Electrical Shoppe, a plastic castle, festooned with bright banners and posters. A drooling, deformed idiot mans the drawbridge. He wears a badge saying "MANAGER". If you decide to go in, go to 23.

To the left is a small, shabby shop marked "MR SHABBY'S SHOPPE". A sign reads "We fix computers proper, dead cheap". In the doorway stands Mr Shabby, a shortsighted



dwarf. If you choose to go in, turn to 24.

To the right is Castle Amstrad. Grinning gargoyles line the parapets. Corpses hang from the battlements. The armoured figure of Baron Sugar grins at you from a turret. If you really, really think it's a good idea to go in, go to 25.

2

Magic bus 2 takes you to the coin-op arcades. There you face a fearsome choice. Will you put your 10p into Afterburner? (Turn to 8). Will you put 10p into the strange, unmarked black cabinet standing mysteriously at the back of the arcade ... ooo-eee-oooh! (Turn to 9). Or will it be the latest coin-op sensation, Alien Slug Death? (Turn to 10).

3

Bus 3 takes you to the Bigge Softwasre Shoppe. The range of products available is staggering. There are three of them. (It must be H W Smitheys.) Which will you buy - *Big Film Licence and the Temple of Profit* from Gilsoft at £10.95 (go to 11), *Mr Wibble* from Happisoft Games at £1.99 (go to 12) or *190 Complete Dodos Compilation* from Gilsoft at £113.98 (go to 13)?

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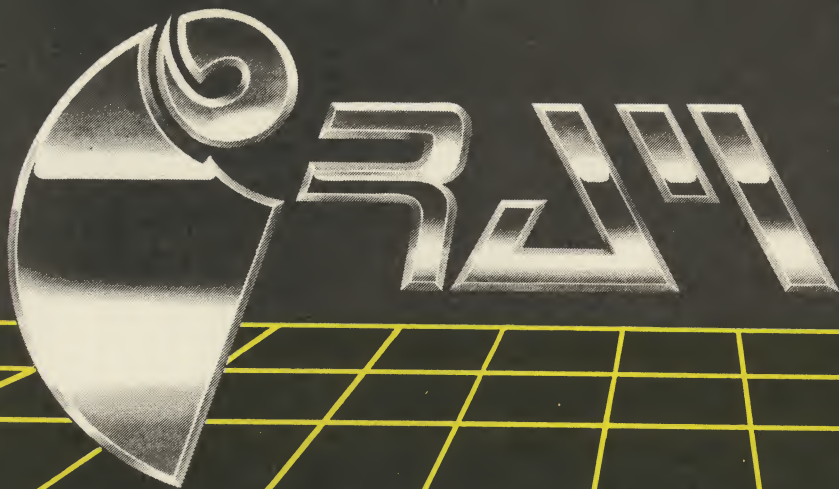
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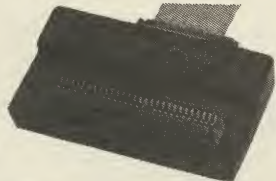
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BANANARIAN ATION OF DOOM

chains up little children and rams plastic burgers down their throats while singing a happy song about defoliating South America. To visit MacDonagall's, turn to 22.

7

At the clothes shoppes. Now it is time to equip yourself for further adventuring. Do you pick: A Millet's parka, flared jeans, Marks & Spencer bri-nylon shirt and Mr Byrite codpiece (turn to 26) A Smiley T-shirt, baseball cap, bandana, baseball boots, mirror shades and matching flamethrower (turn to 27). Or a Burton's suit (of armour) with flared gusset, daringly fluked greaves and seriously rad wide lapels (turn to 28).

8

At the arcade, you put your 10p into Afterburner, and stand stupefied when you realise that it costs £11.95 per game. That was a waste of money, wasn't it? As you trudge home you are knocked over and killed by an elephant.

9

You put your money into the strange black box, and are rewarded by a torrent of glistening coins. Again and again you insert money, and each time you are rewarded with a fountain of wealth. Well pleased, you return to the bus station for your next guest, pausing only to brush aside the cobwebs which hide the mystic runes on the box; "CHANGE MACHINE ..."

10

Alien Slug Death lives up to its name. A gigantic alien slug emerges from the cabinet, wraps you in its slimy tentacles and bores you to death by insisting on discussing the Poll Tax. You are dead. Bet you're sorry now.

11

Big Film Licence and the Temple of Profit contains a sticker, a badge, a membership card for the Gloatsoft Glee Club, a money off voucher, a poster, a false rubber nose, a sachet of dehydrated turnip and a small glob of green putty. There's no space inside for the game. You have failed in your quest, and must disembowel yourself with a garden implement.

12

Mr Wibble is such a marvellous game that you faint with ecstasy, and dream that Sabrina, Bananarama and Kim Wilde are all massaging custard into your quivering body. You set off back to the Bus Station with renewed vigour. Perhaps you ought to go shopping for a new pair of trousers next.



13

190 Complete Dodos turns out to be just that, and you bitterly regret being led astray by the picture on the cover showing Princess Stella struggling into her see-through plastic space bikini. Your money gone, you return home defeated.

14

As you pick up *Cosmopolitan*, the newsagent pulls out a mighty broadsword and cuts off your head. "Eeh-up, we've nay taam for jessie-boys in dis parish, b'wanah" he explains in a strange Manchester-Swahili accent, which you are too dead to be confused by.

15

Sinclair User! What a fine, noble choice! The newsagent bows before you, refuses to accept your money and offers you his most beautiful daughter, Fatima, as a gift. Politely, you decline, and saunter back to the station for your next quest.

16

As you reach for the lesser computer magazine, the earth trembles, a crevasse opens and you are dragged down to Hell by a horde of screaming demons tearing at your flesh and ripping up your priceless collection of marmalade jar labels. Worse is to follow, but you deserve everything you get.

17

Realising that your Stock, Aitken and Waterman single is exactly the same as the last one but two beats per minute faster, you throw yourself from the top of Richard Branson's ego and expire.

18

James Brown sues you for ripping him off, and the resulting court case drags on for eleven centuries until you are as dead as he is.

19

As that crazy acid beat invades your brain you put on your Smiley T-shirt, bandana, mirror shades, baseball cap and sneakers and bop back to the bus station for your next quest. Everyone thinks you are barmy and stays out of your way.

20

Gorged with meat from Elfin Jim's, you die of cattle-bloat and have to be buried in a skip. Messy.

21

The bunny-wunnies savage you to death for stealing their lettuces. Tough.

22

You have to fight the evil Kobold MacDobold if you are to escape from MacDonagall's. It's your broadsword against his triple-burger-french-fries-whale-blubber-crispy-excrement-and-gristle-in-a-bun. If you lose, you are force-fed Gristleburgers until you burst. If you win, you stagger back to the bus-stop, hungry but eager for your next quest.

23

You enter Dixonnes, and eleven years later you are found wandering in a swamp, with an empty coin-purse and a note saying "Your Spectrum will be ready in two years' time." Hard luck, dummy, you failed.

24

Mr Shabby turns out to be an (electronic) wizard in disguise, and fixes your Spectrum in nothing flat, charging you one dead mouse. You return to the Bus Station of Doom to choose your next task.

25

You fall into the clutches of Baron Amstrad, and become one of his army of mindless zombie slaves manning the switchboard. You are never heard of again.

26

Your Mr Byrite codpiece attracts the unwelcome attention of a group of dirty old orcs, and you are last seen running through the Peculiar Hills with them in hot pursuit. Serves you right.

27

Your Acid House gear attracts approving comments, but does little to protect you when you encounter a gang of Lager Louts in a multi-storey car park. Splattered with vomit you trudge home to wash your Smiley T-shirt. Failure.

28

In your Burton's armour you withstand all challenges, and return safely to the bus-stop for more adventures.

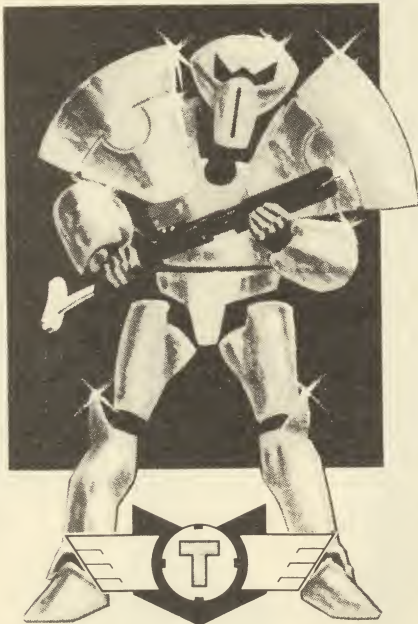
29

Flushed with success and too much Burpsi-Cola, you make your way home to tell your Mum of your success with your seven great adventures. Unfortunately you have forgotten her 20 Benson & Hedges, and she has you boiled to death in Alpen. Next time, take your Great Magic Book of Filo-Fax with you.



Look out for more adventures with Dean the Barbarian - Public Library of Death, The Enchanted Launderette, Castle of Sausages, and Dean the Barbarian Meets Princess Kylie of Melbourne.

LASER SQUAD



TARGET GAMES
19 The Rows
The High, Harlow
Essex, CM20 1BZ

A tactical warfare simulation

Available on Spectrum 48k/128k from August 1988
price: £9.95 (cassette only)

Available on CBM64 and Amstrad CPCs from October 1988
price: £9.95 (cassette) or £14.95 (disk)

GAME FEATURES:

8 directional scrolling window shows detailed 3D maps (80 by 50 spaces)
• One or two player options in each scenario with multiple difficulty levels for one player • Individual level combat with varied unit characteristics • Eight directional facing of units and hidden movement according to line of sight
• Ranged combat includes aimed shots, snap shots, automatic fire, opportunity fire, grenades, thrown weapons and explosive ammunition • Strategic scanner shows detailed plan of entire map area • User friendly joystick or keyboard controlled menu system • Units carry up to ten objects which can be dropped, picked up, thrown, used to open doors etc. • Weapons and equipment can be chosen from a wide variety before each game starts • Highly developed artificial intelligence for one player option • THREE scenarios provided with game • Expansion kits to follow.

Target Games will ensure that Laser Squad is fully supported with new expansion kits. Each expansion kit will contain two fully documented scenarios available by mail order for £3.95 (inc. p&p). The first expansion kit will be available in September 1988 for the Spectrum.

Mail order (Laser Squad, Spectrum 48k/128k): send cheque or postal order payable to 'Target Games Limited' for £9.95 (postage and packing included).



BYRITE SOFTWARE



SPECTRUM £1.99 EACH OR BUY TWO GET ONE FREE

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BASTEC SOFTWARE



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ARCADE ACTION

From the SNK stable, the coin-op smash hit now for your home micro. This multi-level, vertically scrolling arcade thriller throws you deep

into the jungles and ruined cities of a nation held in the grip of a cruel oppressor. Freedom is your aim... Guerrilla War is the means!

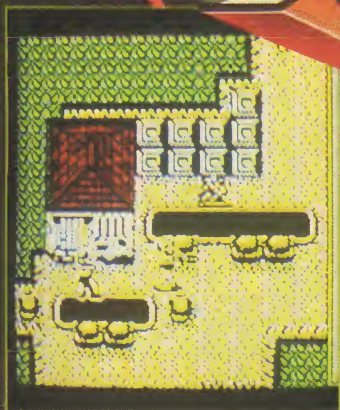


GUERRILLA

WAR

Imagine

The name of the game



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SPECTRUM

PAC-MAN

He's mean. He's tough. He's a cold-eyed, laconic killer. If you're a bad guy you'd better stay out of his way, or he'll bite your eyes out. He's the coolest. He's the greediest. He's **PAC-MAN**.

Yes, the rotund hero of many happy hours of maze-chasing is back, and it must be said that unlike **Pacland**, which was as satisfying as a Twix in a refugee camp, this one is a real goer.

Now, there aren't many surprises here if you remember the original **Pacman**. All this is, basically, is a 3D version of what was, in its time, the most popular arcade game of all.

Mind you, it's done staggeringly well by Teque, authors of **Grandslam**'s earlier hit **Terramex**. The scrolling is creditably smooth, the animation is very well handled, and the game sticks as closely as possible to the arcade original.

The playing area is the $\frac{2}{3}$ of the screen on the left. Limiting the scrolling area in this way makes it easier to handle scrolling smoothly, and in this case it doesn't detract from the

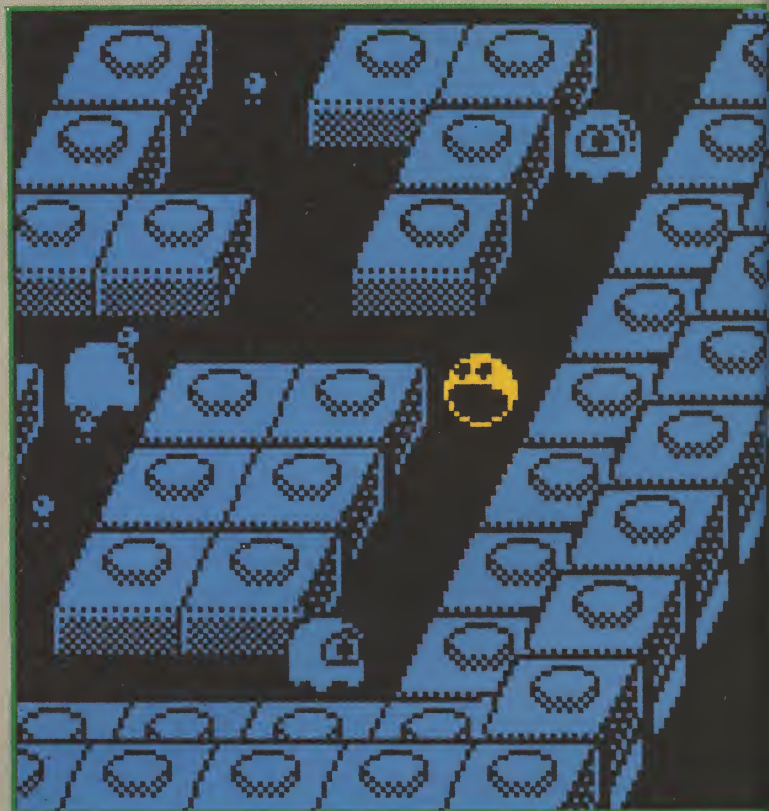
around the maze, gobbling up the pills, avoiding the Ghosts, and looking out for the fruit and other tokens which give you extra points and bonus features.

The graphics are cleverly



done to minimise attribute clash, even though Pac is yellow and the backgrounds, er, sometimes aren't. The only time you notice anything amiss is when Pac leaps into the air. Yes! This little Paccie can jump over the heads of the pursuing ghosts, so with a bit of good timing and a sense of direction you can escape from positions which would have spelled your doom in **Pacman**.

When you find a Power Pill, the ghosts change colour, and for a few seconds you can chase and devour them. With an appropriate expression of despair they disappear in to the void, their eyes scuttling off home. If you hit a ghost, though, you spin around and vanish, and reappear at a



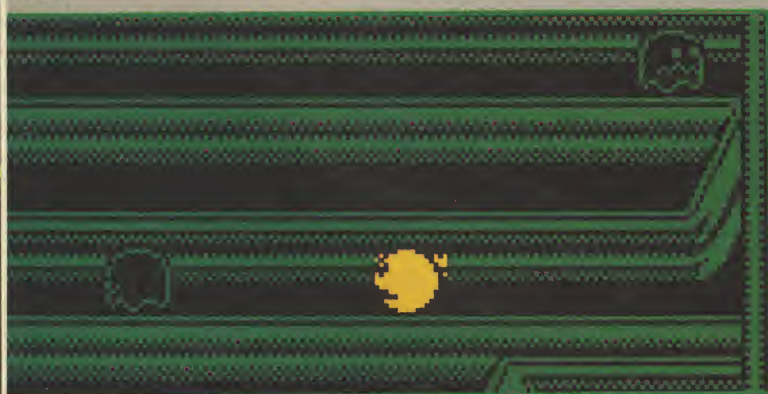
random position on the level. As with the original game, if you lose all your lives, you can restart from the last level you reached by pressing the fire button within seven seconds.



Although the first couple of levels are pretty easy, things get more complex later on as there are more, faster ghosts and more complex mazes. This is where the extra features come

in useful; some of the tokens scattered around the maze allow you to move faster, become temporarily invisible, and so on.

In between each level is an amusing little bit of playacting from the **Pacman Theatre**, and



enjoyment of the game at all.

On the right are the displays which show you your score, hi-score, remaining "credits", number of lives, and special features activated and so on.

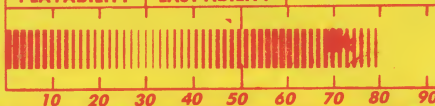
You can start on any of the first three levels - Block Town, Pacman's Park or Sandbox Land. The fourth level, Jungly Steps, can only be accessed once you have completed the first three. Not that there's much difference between each level; though the design of the backgrounds change, the aim is exactly the same; keep moving

ARCADE



REVIEW

GRAPHICS	SOUND
80	60
PLAYABILITY	LAST ABILITY
69	67



FAX BOX

PACMANIA Label: **Grandslam** Author: **Teque** Price: **£7.95** Memory: **48K/128K** Joystick: **various**

Technically excellent coin-op conversion of the 3D Pacman game

Reviewer:

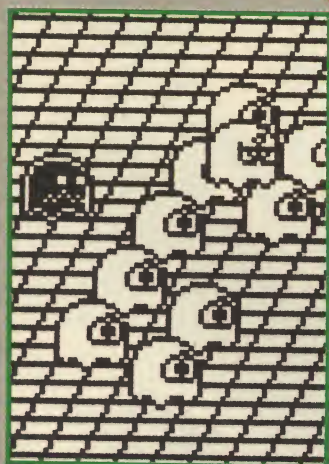
Tony Dillard

79



although there are only four different types of background, there are endless levels featuring faster, more intelligent, and sometimes invulnerable and jumping ghosts. So, if you like the basic idea of *Pacman*, the fun will go on as long as you can possibly stand it.

OK, no big surprises, but an excellent conversion, and a jolly good update of a much-loved original.



just another of those fifth-century sword-and-sorcery arcade adventures which have been thick on the ground since *Tir Na Nog*, plundering Celtic mythology for a bit of historical background. The plot, though, sounds as if it's even older than fifth-century; rescue the captured sorceress Nimue by travelling through the mystic kingdom of Albinn using the Wheel of Cerriddwen, fighting off the servants of Morgause and seeking out the Rune Stones to restore your magical powers... ho hum.

It doesn't look altogether bad; all the characters are costumed in a suitably barbaric way, and the backgrounds include details such as stone columns, piles of severed heads (so untidy, those ancient Britons), bushes, skeletons, causeways, stone walls and pitfalls.

The baddies include top-knotted warriors who stride about quite convincingly, while Artura himself can walk, jump and duck, all the time flinging an endless series of battleaxes at the warriors, ravens, rats and other baddies. He tends to disappear into the background every time he walks in front of anything yellow, which is a pity since most of the walls are yellow.



So, you mosey along, snuffing the baddies and looking out for runes. These are found lying around (as priceless mystic runes always seem to be in this sort of game), and on picking them up, they appear in your inventory box. This is just below the obligatory energy bar which displays your falling vigour.

On reaching a doorway you can move forwards or backwards into it, to flip to



help you out of a sticky spot. Or not.

The music's OK, the spot effects are OK, and there are some clever graphical touches such as the way you turn into a bird and flap away when you get snuffed. Unfortunately, nothing in *Artura* hasn't been done better before – notably in Gargoyle's series *Dun Darach*, *Tir Na Nog*, and the sci-fi follow-up *Marsport*. Not a compulsory purchase.



He might be *Artura* to Gremlin, but to you, me and the milkman, he'll always be King Arthur. Likewise, you might have difficulty in recognising characters like Merdyn and Morgause, and places like Camelot – try Merlin, Morgana and Camelot and you might be on firmer ground. Yes, this is

ARCADE
★
REVIEW

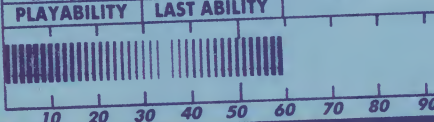
FAX BOX

ARTURA Label: *Gremlin Graphics* Author:
In-house Price: £7.95 Memory: 48K/128K
Joystick: *various*

GRAPHICS	SOUND
58	58
PLAYABILITY	LAST ABILITY
60	56

Run-of-the-mill historical arcade adventure

Reviewer:



OVERALL
59

ARTURA

"Rex is a brilliant combination of strategy, dexterity and shooting and it has that vital 'just one more go' quality which so many games lack nowadays."

YOUR SINCLAIR, DECEMBER 1988.



The thick-skinned mercenary, is here to do a job. He's come to Zenith to do away with the humans that have built their fortunes around The Great Tower.

Utilising the massive underground cave system, and armed with the greatest weapon system yet seen, with its array of cannons, lasers, multiple spray guns and smart bombs, Rex leaps from cave to cave in a mad blitz that wreaks havoc and destruction on his chosen enemies.

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A multi-load, multi-level arcade extravaganza of epic proportions.

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CODE TALK

Mystery upon mystery! The Light have just burst onto the software scene with a shining (yak yak) example of their talents, Rex. But who on earth are they and where do they come from and why are they, well, why are they called The Light?

The boys they call The Light. Only Richard and Neil agreed to appear. For reasons of their own personal privacy, we have concealed their identity.

THERE ARE THREE OF THEM!

There are three of us. Myself – Neil Harris, Richard Allan and John Anderson.

THEY USED TO BE WITH THE BIG BOYS

We worked for IBM for a couple of years after leaving school. We got out of there about six months ago and decided to get a games development team together. Richard does the graphics and John and I do the coding.

THEY'RE DAMNED QUICK LEARNERS!

After we left IBM we had a look at the Z80 and got to grips with it in a couple of months.

HEALTH FOOD? SHMEALTH FOOD!

I like Chinese take-aways, John goes for Italian mainly and Richard will eat anything.

THEY STILL REMEMBER ULTIMATE

Favourite game? We all thought the **Ultimate** stuff was pretty good, but I think that **Roller Coaster** from Elite was the best I've seen.

INSPIRATION? EASY!

We just thought about the sort of game we'd like to play. The most important factor was that it shouldn't be too difficult or too easy. Lots of games seem impossible when you start. We also wanted to do something original.

SQUARE EYES OR WHAT?

We all like movies. The best one I've seen recently was *Hellraiser*. Richard loves Steve Martin stuff. Sci-fi stuff appeals, both movies and books.

THEY GET THEIR MOTORS RUNNING(?)

Cars? Yeh. We all drive. I've got a Sierra and John's got a Cavalier and Richard an XR3i.

THEY LIKE ALL KINDS OF CRAZY MUSIC!

We got pretty varied musical tastes from Queen, to Billy Bragg, The Housemartins and even Jethro Tull.

AND THEY WANT TO BE POP STARS!

If we weren't programming, we'd probably still be stuck at IBM, but I think we all secretly want to be pop stars. Richard has a longing to be a movie director, though.

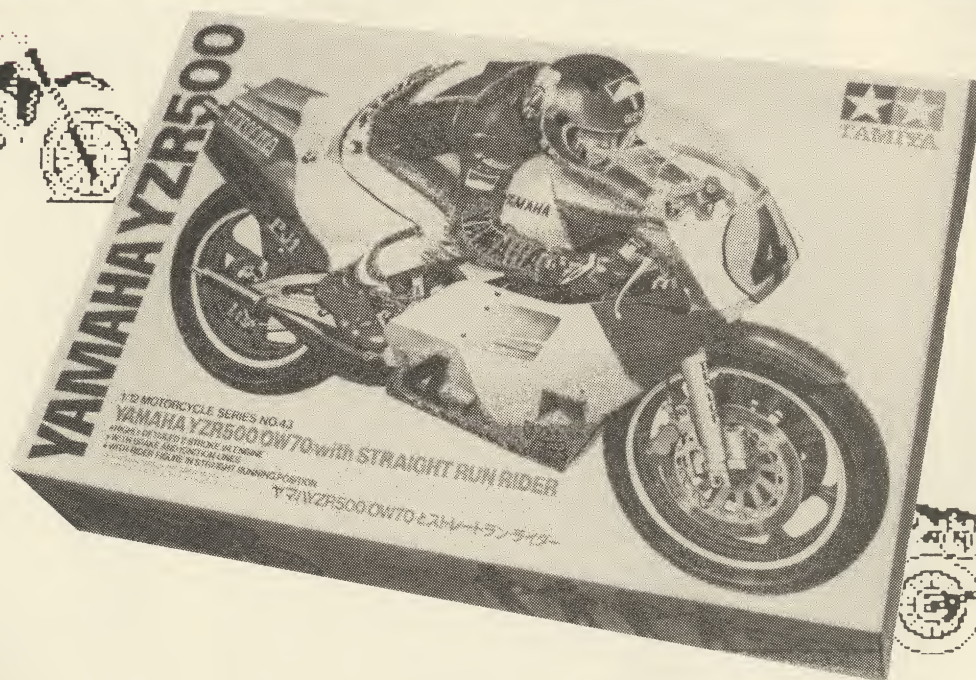
THEY'RE CONTROL-VERSIAL BLIGHTERS!

The worst game I've ever seen? **Cybernoid II**. It's just a rehash. Same game, different graphics.



COMPETITION

MOTORBIKE MADNESS



Anyone remember the guy on the news last month who was nicked for doing about two thousands miles per second on his motorbike? No? Well now is your chance to relive those exciting moments thanks to the spiffing people at Virgin Mastertronic.

In celebration of their extremely motorbikey game **Motorbike Madness** which is reviewed elsewhere in this issue, they've got 10 (count 'em) **Yamaha YZR500** road racers to give away, so you can get arrested as many times as you like.

The Questions

- 1) How many wheels has a motorcycle got (excluding stupid moon-hopper things)?
- 2) How many times is the word Motorbike mentioned in the title of Mastertronic's new motorcycle game?
- 3) Name the old film starring Dennis Hopper choc full of motorcycles

Well, okay, time to own up. They're not real cycles, but even better; they're fantastic kits – complete with rider! – which you can lovingly assemble in the privacy of your own bedroom. Just think of all the glue fumes you've now got an excuse to inhale.

And a further 20 lucky runners up will get a copy of the game.

And what do you have to do in order to be eligible for one of these trouser-damaging prizes? Easy. Simply answer the questions below and send the coupon to: Mind the Red Light Competition, Sinclair User, 14 Holkham Road, Orton, Peterborough PE2 0UF.

Name:

Address:

1)

2)

3)

No employees of EMAP, Virgin Mastertronic or anyone else may enter this compo. (Ha ha, only joking. You know you're all welcome here at **SU**!)

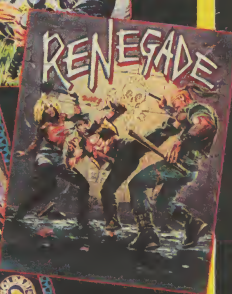


THE ARCADE COMPILATION OF THE YEAR

TAITO®

COIN-OP

Hits



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RASTAN The Warrior King. Lands that produce men of legend, dragon slayers, lie in his shadow — guardians of evil fear his fire spewing sword, the axe he wields as swift as lightning. State of the art programming makes a true simulation of the Arcade for your home micro, enjoy superb graphics and realistic action as RASTAN takes on a world of dangers — magical wizards, fire breathing lions, bats, snakes, skeletons and finally the living dead. Is it more than you can handle?



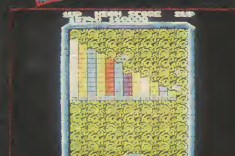
© TAITO CORP. 1987

SLAP FIGHT You are the pilot of the Slapfighter and must destroy the evil alien swarms which confront you, wave after deadly wave on the ever hostile planet of Orac. To aid you in your challenge collect icons and substantially increase your fire power and speed. Superb graphics and split second timing give this game an addictive edge.



© TAITO CORP. 1988

RENEGADE REBEL WITHOUT A CAUSE? In the knife-edge world of the vigilante there is no place to rest, no time to think — but look sharp — there is always time to die! From the city subways to the gangland ghettos you will always encounter the disciples of evil who's mission it is to exterminate the only man on earth who dares to throw down the gauntlet on their path — the Renegade. PLAY RENEGADE...PLAY MEAN!



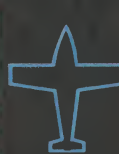
© TAITO CORP. 1987

ARKANOID The era and time of this story is unknown. After the mothership "Arkanoïd" was destroyed, a spacecraft "Vaas" scrambled away, only to be trapped in the void. You control the "Vaas" and have to penetrate 32 levels and then confront the "Dimension Changer" whom you must destroy in order to reverse time and resurrect the "Arkanoïd". Frantic action and split second timing combine to produce the most addictive and compulsive game.



© TAITO CORP. 1987

FLYING SHARK HOT FROM THE ARCADES. Flying Shark is the definitive conversion of this shoot 'em-up, chart topping classic hit from Taito. Develop your strategy as you face swarms of enemy planes, tanks, gun emplacements and a host of sea-borne craft as you bomb, blast and battle your way into arcade history.



© TAITO CORP. 1986

ARKANOID REVENGE OF DOH Eons have passed...yet despite apparent annihilation in the original ARKANOID game, Dimension-controlling force "DOH" has come back to life, and occupying the huge space-craft ZARG, has entered our Universe. ARKANOID type space-fighter MIXTEC runs through long forgotten computer data until it finds the answer to his threat. "VAUS 2" is launched and speeds towards the threatening alien presence, before it can extract its revenge... "The Revenge of Doh"



© TAITO CORP.

BUBBLE BOBBLE TAITO'S NO. 1 ARCADE HIT IS HERE! Meet Bub and Bob, two of the busiest beasts you ever saw, as they battle their way across 100 levels of controlled chaos in search of their girlfriends (ahhh!). Jump around picking up goodies and secret weapons as you seek to outsmart your enemies, but beware...hang around too long and you'll face Baron von Blubba, from whom there's no escape!



© TAITO CORP.

LEGEND OF KAGE Legend has it that long ago in Japan the beautiful Princess Kiri was kidnapped by the evil Dragon King, and Kage, a young ninja who was walking with her in the forest at the time, was given the formidable task of rescuing her. You must help Kage in his quest through the forest to the Dragon King's palace, gain entrance, find Kiri and take her to safety, while avoiding the Dragon King's ninja guards.



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Big weapon from Games Workshop!



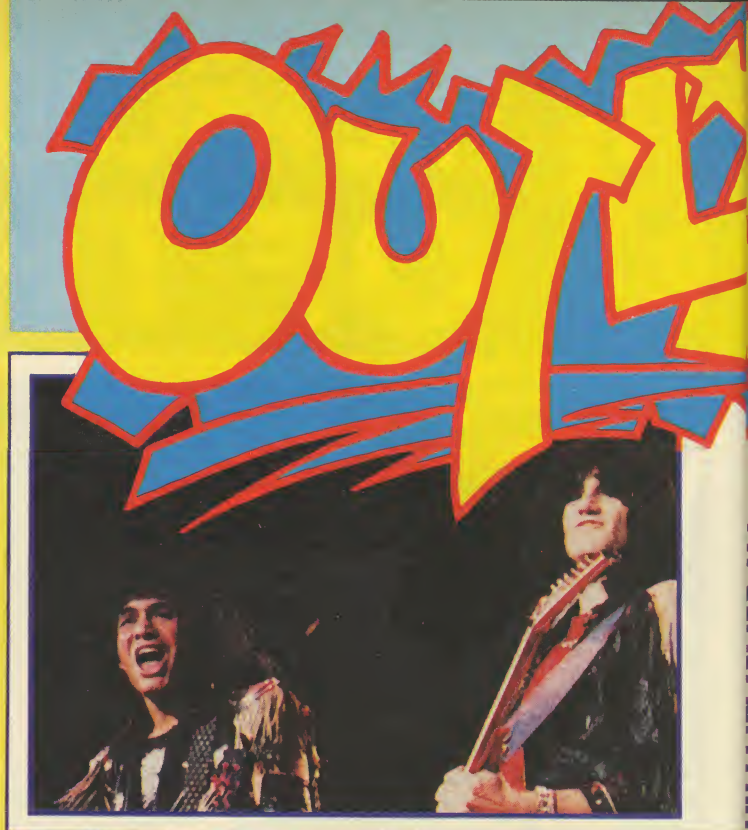
A whole sackload of new Games Workshop products landed in our fairy dell the other day. For a start there were the

IMPERIAL LANDRAIDER kits; or £12.99, you get two self-assembly hard styrene kits complete with transfers and camouflage guides. The Land Raiders are heavily armed battle tanks used by the Imperial Space Marines in the Warhammer 40,000 gameplaying scenario, and they look well 'ard. The Marines don't get everything their own way, though; they're up against the ELDAR HARLEQUINS, a set of



18 white metal miniatures of the most fiendish and colourful alien adversaries. £9.99 for the set.

Last on the list is CATACOMBS, an expansion set for the DUNGEONQUEST role-playing game. You get lotsa map cards, counters, room plans, rulebooks and dice for



your dosh, but remember that you need the original Dungeonquest set to play.

All the new products are available from your local games specialist, or you can get a catalogue from Games Workshop, Chewton Street, Hilltop, Eastwood, Notts NG16 3HY.



The special effects are thankfully restrained, and by some clever camera work we've saved any embarrassing Superman-style flying sequences.

Lost Boys is definitely worth a rental. Even if you're no teen-rocker-vampire fan it's worth it simply for the one liners. "You're a bloodsucking vampire, Michael! Ooh, you wait til Mom finds out!"

D'ya wanna be in our gang? No thank you.



LOST BOYS

"People are strange" goes the song. Well yes indeed. Especially if you've just moved to Santa Carla with your Mom and kid brother in search of rest and relaxation only to discover that - gawd! - it's the murder capital of the world!

Why is everyone in the seasia town getting topped? Who are those spooky (though well dressed), bike riders, and what about that dark-haired foxtress with the funny blouse? And what on earth are the boys in the comic shop blathering about?

Vampires. That's Santa Carla's growth industry, the spooks are led by peroxide blonde Keifer Sutherland and do their utmost to recruit Michael and his

brother to their nocturnal number.

Lost Boys, like Near Dark before it, is an extremely watchable psuedo-horror affair. In places it gets pretty damned messy, but never actually frightens you. The vamps' lifestyle is very appealing "Sleep all day, party all night. Never grow old, never die." Until the rather splashy business of "feeding" comes to light.



ROBO COP

"Drop it! Dead or alive, you're coming with me". A classic line if ever I heard one, spoken by a classic guy. The first ever fully self-sustaining, intelligent, bullet-proof police officer.

Officer Murphy, KIA by a band of merciless cop killers and

KISS have been described as the best live band ever by quite a few people, what with their flare-launching guitars, flashpots and levitating drum kits. What was at Wembley? Six flashpots – six! That was it. The sound, on the other hand, was incredible. I was lucky (unlucky?) enough to have near-enough front row seats, and my ears rang for 3 days afterwards.

All the old favourites were there with a couple of additions. From the pure solid vocal strength of *Lovegun* and *Lick It Up*, to the simple brilliance of *Cold Gin* and *Firehouse*. If you find you like the sound of a KISS concert you can see them on the *Crazy Nights* video (13 mins, 15.99 (PMV)) or check out *KISS-Animalize Live Uncensored* (89 mins, £9.99 (PMV)).

**PART MAN,
PART MACHINE,
ALL COP.**



drug dealers, brought back to life minus all major limbs and appendages by the company that has bought, and therefore has full control over, the Detroit Police Department.

Unfortunately when they wiped his memory, they didn't remove the mental scars of his grisly death. Robocop, the movie, follows him through his mental awakening and then onto his final revenge.

Robocop is a great film, with

some terrific special effects, though I did find it a little marred by the over use of violence. I enjoyed it thoroughly, and I'm definitely keeping the tape, but do we really have to see his hand explode like a McDonald's strawberry milkshake that's just been jumped on. Yes? Oh well, Que sera sera.

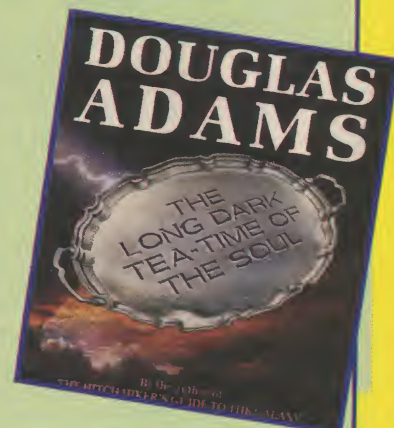
Robocop is released on 11th November by Virgin Vision. Definitely one to rent.

The Long Dark Tea-time of the Soul

TLDTOTS follows on from where *Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency* left off, or rather, a little bit later on. Well, actually, the only linking themes between this and *Dirk Gently's* are the lead character and the humour.

Tea-time is Adams in the best form yet. Sharp, funny, biting, painfully easy to relate to and very, very ingenious.

As normal in an Adams novel, there's one overall theme, and an amazing amount of sub themes, which almost miraculously come together about half way through the book. A woman searching for a man she met at Heathrow airport, the inexplicable sudden combustion of Terminal 2, a war between Odin and his rather dim son, Thor and the murder of Dirk Gently's clients (billed as suicide by the police. Well of course it was. All the doors were locked from the inside and there was no sign of entry. The fact that the victim's head had been removed from his body and placed on the rotating platter of a record player didn't come into it.) all as detached from each other in the



first few paragraphs, as my blood line connections to the royal family, some come together in a way that makes you go 'Of course, why didn't I think of that?'

Douglas Adams' best one yet. Did you know that he got paid £1.2 million for this and *Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency*?

The Long Dark Tea-time of the Soul is available at time of going to print and costs £10.95. It's in hardback only at the moment, though Pan books will be doing it in paperback early next year.

DILLON GOES TO MARS

You can spot Space Adventure 3001 quite easily by the large Apollo rocket hanging above the entrance.

Once through the entrance, you are transported to a futuristic looking area of a Space launch pad. After paying your fare, you are shuffled into the departure lounge, where you can watch videos of old space footage while you wait for your flight to be called. When called, you are ushered into the craft itself and are asked to strap yourself in. Once the main screen has been opened, you take off and enjoy a glorious flight to Mars, via the Moon.

Sounds like I'm talking rubbish, doesn't it? Well, I'm not. I have really been to Mars, at least, my body thinks I have. You see, the spacecraft is actually an 80 seater hydraulic flight simulator. The 'view' through the main visor is

only a film but watching it, coupled with the swaying and jerking of the simulator recreates the feel of real flight in a way I didn't think was possible.

If you want to try your hand at Space Adventure, you'll find it at Tooley St, London Bridge, right next to the London Dungeon. Prices are £3.50 adults and £2.00 for the under 16's and it is open Mon-Sun 10-6.



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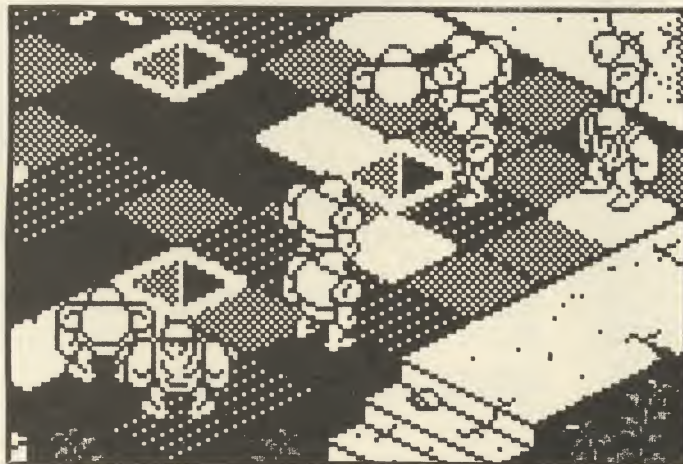
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POWERPLAY

Powerplay describes itself as the game of the Gods. Most people would automatically take that as a piece of biblical blasphemy on behalf of some PR person trying to imply that the great one himself spends his rainy afternoons playing this game. That is not the case. By 'Game of the Gods', Players actually mean the game played by the Greek Gods, ages and ages ago, up on Mount Olympus, simply because they had nothing better to do.

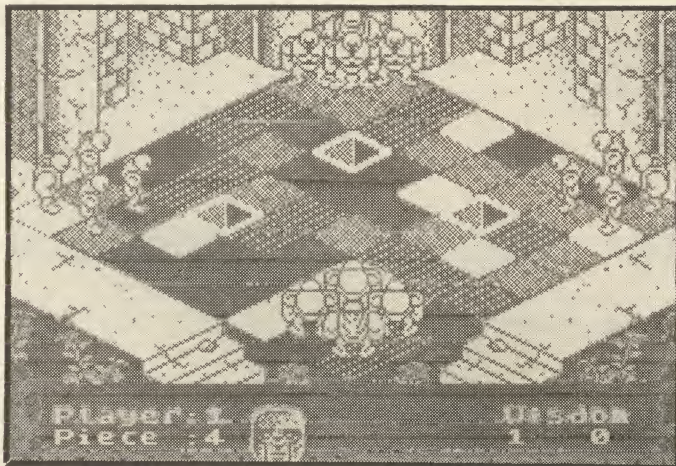
You know the game I mean. The strange chessboard with the real life people as pieces, a



points and is then allowed to move in any of the eight directions.

Should a character accumulate 25 wisdom points, then he is allowed to mutate to the next rank. If he chooses to do so, then he spins in a dizzying manner, his wisdom points are returned to zero, and when he stops rotating, he's the next rank up.

The whole point of rank comes when challenging an enemy piece. When you are given the option to move, after correctly answering a question, you can challenge any enemy pieces adjacent to you by trying

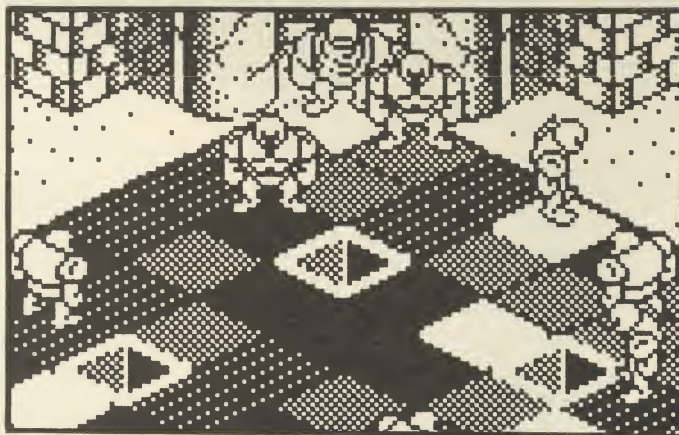


little like the game played by Chewbacca and C3-P0 on board the Mellenium Falcon in *Star Wars*.

The basic aim is to try to win control of the board by successfully removing all your opponent's pieces. To do this, you have to answer some trivia questions. Oh no! not another *Trivial Pursuit*! Aaargh!

Well, OK, maybe it is a little bit Trivial, but it's a lot more fun than the former could ever be. Two to four players are gathered round a square board, divided into 100 tiles, each one shaded any of four patterns. The reason will become clear later.

Each player has an army in one of the corners. Well, by an army, I mean four characters; three Hercules and a Cyclops. Before I go on, I might as well explain the ranking system. There are four ranks in the game, going from Hercules (bottom) through to Cyclops, Minotaur and finally Satyr. The whole point behind gaining rank is so that you can live longer. More later.



As I was saying, each character starts with three Hercules and a Minotaur, and each player can move one character per turn.

Before a character can be moved, he has to answer a Trivia question. The type of question depends on which tile he's standing on. A plain tile denotes a general knowledge question, a solid black tile denotes history and geography, a check tile is science and

technology and a striped tile is sport and leisure. The question is displayed along with four possible answers. The player has to decide which is correct and press the appropriate button in the time limit provided. What level of question you get is completely random. (Though more often than not, it's ridiculously easy). Should the character answer the question right, he is awarded a number of wisdom

to move onto the square they're occupying. The computer gives you a random question, and the two players involved have to try to press the right button to answer the question. If one player answers incorrectly, or the other player answers first, then that player goes down one rank. Should that player already be bottom rank, then they are destroyed and removed from the game permanently. Now you see the importance of getting rank.

The graphics are fab. Large and detailed, each character is both recognisable and distinctive. The forced perspective works well and the animation is first rate. I like the way your man leaps up and down when you are selecting your player as if to say 'pick me, pick me'.

Powerplay. Not just another trivia game. A well wicked budget game. Be a devil (snigger), go out and get the Game of the Gods. It's just like heaven (titter). (Tony, cut out the God-related puns now! - GT **SU**'s very own Odin.)■



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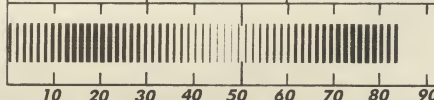
POWERPLAY Label: *Players* Author: *Andy Severn, Colin Swinbourne* Price: *£1.99*
Memory: *48K/128K* Joystick: *various*

GRAPHICS	SOUND
84	??
81	86
PLAYABILITY	LAST ABILITY

A nice mix of trivia and Greek mythology. A snip at the price

Reviewer:

Tony Diller



OVERALL
84

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IF you reckon we're talking rubbish don't just stand there . . .

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GRAHAM

FOOTBALL MANAGER 2

After reading your review of AFM2 I bought it, loaded it, threw it around in disgust and then took it back for a different game. You don't often make mistakes, but didn't you mean 0.8% for the sound (beep) and 6.8% for the amazing graphics? I have to agree with your lastability mark as it takes 99% of the day to finish one season. I wonder how much you got paid for giving this drivel such a great review, or was Graham Taylor just stone drunk at the time? I honestly think I would rather play Soccer Boss! I think this means you owe me £10 for the game and at least another £5 for the inconvenience . . .

Simon Brown
Letchworth
Herts

Putting his fiver towards:
Operation Wolf

● Not so much stone drunk, just . . . well . . . merry. Sorry we can't come up with £10 for the game, but at least your £5 will ease the pain. But if Taylor, who knows nowt about footie, likes FM2, then it MUST be good. I think.

GARFIELD

How dare you, Graham Taylor, give Garfield ten stars, when the most I would give it would be 5? It has QUITE good graphics, but is very boring in black and white. You couldn't have asked for a more boring game. The only good part is when you kick Odie up the bum. Come on SU, you CAN'T give Garfield a Classic.

Robert Harvey
Fife

Putting his fiver towards: Karnov

● But we are, and we can, and we did, and we do, so there.

Garfield was one of those rare games where the whole is more than the sum of the parts, he said in such a way that everyone thought he must be very wise.

HOTSHOT

What a load of rubbish mate! You want your head testing. Jenkins. What a nut! 91 for Hot Shot - Minus 91 more like. This game is really rubbish. I mean, you gave us a preview free on Megatape 5 with the brillo Bratattack. Come on mate, you can do better - please!

Mark Ford
Denton

Manchester
Putting his fiver towards: Usagi
Yojimbo

● It would be nice to be able to award minus scores sometimes, but what happens when you get below minus 100? Does the game collapse and become a black hole, sucking the whole magazine into itself? Sounds a bit risky to me.

CHRIS



CYBERNOID

I have the one billion dollar question to put to E.T. features (otherwise known as Chris Jenkins). 1) Did you get drunk before playing Cybernoid 2? 2) If not then why did you give it only 92%? This game is mega-mega-mega cool. Tourists flock from all over the universe just to see it, and they pay large amounts of money just to play it for one second. You must be mad only giving it 92%, but I still like your mag (shurp!). PS If you do not print this I will feed all my SUs to next door's cat.

Scott McKellar

Erskine

Putting his fiver towards:
Operation Wolf

● First, that's two questions. No, I wasn't drunk but I did have toothache. Two, I gave it 92% 'cos that's how good it is. Since I answered the questions, don't you owe me a billion dollars? I'll be down to collect the day after tomorrow, incidentally, the resemblance to E.T. has been mentioned before, but I maintain it's not my best profile. Awrrrk! Phone home!

EVERY SECOND COUNTS

Chris, what possessed you to give Every Second Counts 54%? It doesn't even deserve 5! It's about as thrilling as watching paint dry on a white wall, and has the playability of Monopoly without street names. And it's SO BORING! It deserves to be on the dung heap where it came from. Bad review!

Andrew Coates
Croydon

Putting his fiver towards:
Operation Wolf

● I'm very upset. Just for once I decide to err on the side of generosity, and I make allowances for the fact that some people LIKE incredibly boring quiz games, and I got mercilessly machine-gunned. Tch.

ROADBLASTERS

Is Chris Jenkins on glue lad? (Yes - GT). I mean his review of Roadblasters is far too low. It deserves at least 90% just for the lastability, and should be a Classic.

Please get rid of Jenkins, as he doesn't know what he's rambling about.

Paul Sharratt
Leicester

Putting his fiver towards:
Operation Wolf

● I dunno, there's no pleasing some people. I thought Roadblasters got a pretty fair mark. Please don't turn me out

in the street, I'm too old and hopeless to find anywhere else to go. Pass the Bostik

INTENSITY

On September 8th, I purchased Your Sincalir (and you admit it??? - GT) and read the review of Intensity. On September 16th, I purchased Crash (Heresy! Sacrilege! - GT) and read the review of Intensity. On the 19th I went out and bought Intensity. I then played it, and it is absolutely fantastic. Three days later, I buy SU, and you have given Intensity only average marks. I am lucky I buy all three Speccy mags; if I just bought SU I would not have had the pleasure of playing Intensity. Your reviews are badly on the decline and if you don't kill yourselves and let another set of reviewers run the magazine, I shall go and ***** in a yoghurt pot (and stop buying SU also). By the way, Deviants is brilliant.

Sholem Lenkiewicz
London

Putting his fiver towards: Gold,
Silver, Bronze

● Well, you can guess which bits of your letter we agree with, and which made us run away blubbing. On balance we've decided that we won't kill ourselves, but we will hide our yoghurt in future.

ALIEN SYNDROME

How could that Jenkins bloke give such a naff game 89%? I am of course, writing about Alien Syndrome, one of the worst games I've played since I bought my Spectrum six months ago. The graphics are only mediocre, and the scrolling is the worst I have ever seen. The extra weapons are mostly useless and the end of level guardians look more like blue and yellow blobs than "obscene masses of quivering protoplasm". The two player option, while quite good fun adds little to the atmosphere. In a nutshell, Alien Syndrome is no more than a Gauntlet rip-off with a few frills. Think twice before you buy this game.

Andrew Robinson
Whalley
Lancs

Putting his fiver towards: R-Type

● Is it really necessary for me to point out that Andrew comes from Whalley? OK, Syndrome is based on the same idea as Gauntlet, but as I pointed out, it feels completely different because it's not just constant shooting. As for the scrolling, if you've never seen anything worse than this, you're very lucky. Considering the area that's being scrolled, it's great, so nyeh nyeh nyeh.

The WRITE STUFF?!



TONY

DALEY THOMPSON '88

72%! 72%! Tony needs to have his glasses fixed, 'cos it should have been 92%! I thought you great guys would be sensible and give DT '88 a Classic, but oh no! TD thought he'd be clever and write the review without his glasses on. The grafix and animation could knock out any humble Amiga owner, the 128K sound is just like the audio cassette you get with this mega classic game, but the game is so hard! This should have been a nominee, if not the winner, in the game of the decade awards! Bobby Singh Dohil Ilford

Putting his fiver towards: Operation Wolf

● *That would just about make it the best game ever in the world space, wouldn't it? In which case it should have got 100%, shouldn't it? In which case your suggestion of 92% couldn't possibly be enough, could it? So you must be completely bonkers, QED.*

DROIDZ

Hey! Who is this maniac bed-wetting rosie who thinks Droidz is good? 91 out of 100? Pheeo! Someone printed a 9 instead of a 0, didn't they? So crap, unplayable Droidz is better than amazing, addictive Marauder and brilliant, even more addictive Bionic Commando, is that what you're trying to tell me? Because

TARGET RENEGADE

Wow! Jim has finally got a review right. (Thanks a bunch - JD). Giving Target Renegade 10 stars was the most sensible thing he has done this year. The graphics are mega cool, playability and colour are brill. OK, I admit it's easy, I completed it after six goes (boast boast). Even if you can complete it, it will have you going back for more. Target Renegade is a must for all you punks out there - it's a vast improvement on Renegade. Asim Waseem Swansea Putting his fiver towards: Operation Wolf

● *FINALLY got something right? FINALLY got something RIGHT? I was under the impression I was ALWAYS right. Still, it's nice to have your opinion confirmed by the faithful readers.*

BIONIC COMMANDOS

You silly people, you should have executed Jim Douglas ages ago. (We tried - GT). Jim, how could you give such a well 'ard game as Bionic Commandos seven measley stars? Oh yes, in the review you said that it wasn't crap; of course it isn't crap, who do you think you are? The 128K tunes are totally wicked and the sound effects are good too. If you've got enough dosh stashed away, buy this, it's a very good game. Ricardo Griffin Eastbourne

Putting his fiver towards: R-Type

● *I don't think good 128K music and a few blobby sound effects makes it worth more than seven stars. You gotta look at the gameplay; I did, and there was about seven stars worth. Simple, yes?*

you know you've got a disgusting taste in games and everyone will disagree, probably.

Leigh Loveday Port Talbot

Putting his fiver towards: R-Type

● *Dillon gets the blame for this one. His signature fell off the review because it was too disgusted with itself to live. Still, what exactly is a rosie? We'd like to know, see, before we decide whether it's an insulting enough term for the Dildoid.*

MARAUDER

Furgelinkdesplurgaroonie! I (myself and nobody else) have just been playing Marauder for 8 hours 37 minutes straight! I even forgot to go to school! My mum has called the men in white coats, and they're coming down the path now so I had better make it short. 90%? It's easily the best vertically scrolling shoot-'em-up I have ever played (and I've played quite a few. It deserved a Classic (at least!))

The graphics are some of the best I have ever seen on ye olde Speccy, and the sound on the 128K is amazing. It is the most addictive game I have ever played. 80 out of 100 for addictiveness? Jim Douglas should be hanged, drawn and quartered. And... ARRGH! They've got me! (Can I play Marauder in my cell? What? Then I'm going to shoot myself. Blam!!!) Alan Davey Farnborough Putting his fiver towards: Action Force

● *Hanged, drawn and quartered just for giving a game only 90%? What would you do to parking offenders, or people who returned their library books late? I dunno, sometimes I think we're catering to an audience of right wing authoritarian loonies. Never mind, eh?*



JIM

Every so often - well very often actually - you write to tell us that we know nothing about anything and insist that some program we trashed is actually the best game ever. Conversely you blast us for saying something is great that you absolutely loath and detest.

Enough is enough. We can't take any more, if you think you're as clever you write the damn magazine. We mean it!

Every month we'll devote a page to a selection of your opinions on the latest software. Don't get mad - write the review you think the game should have received and we (subject only to space) will print it.

Now, aside from seeing your work in print we will send you a crisp £5 - or cheque - to put towards the software title of your choice - tell us what you plan to spend the money on if your review is printed.

You've probably noticed that we don't print pictures any more, so you can stop sending them. Jim only sticks them on his typewriter and burns a hole in them anyway.

So get cracking - write your reviews and send them together with the completed coupon below.

YOUR REVIEWS

Maximum 150 words. No swearing, libel or illegibility and come out of the corner fighting. Don't beat around the bush - tell us straight what you think. Send your review (or any recent game) and fill in the coupon. *Send the lot to The Write Stuff, Sinclair User, 30-32 Farringdon Lane, London EC1R 3AU. EC1R 3AU.

Name.....

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I'm going to put my fiver towards.....

*Reviews supplied without full name and address will not be considered for publication.

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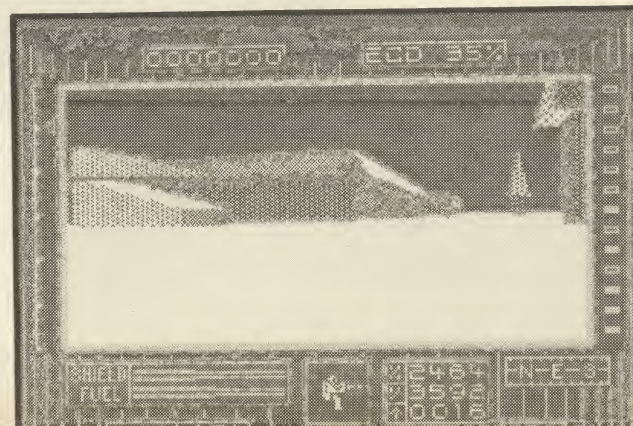
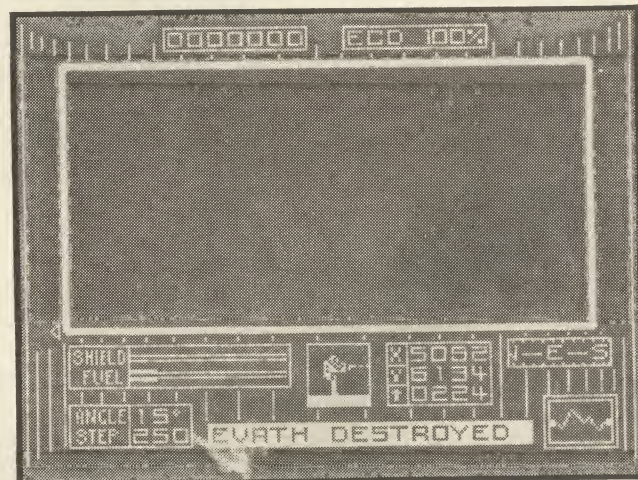
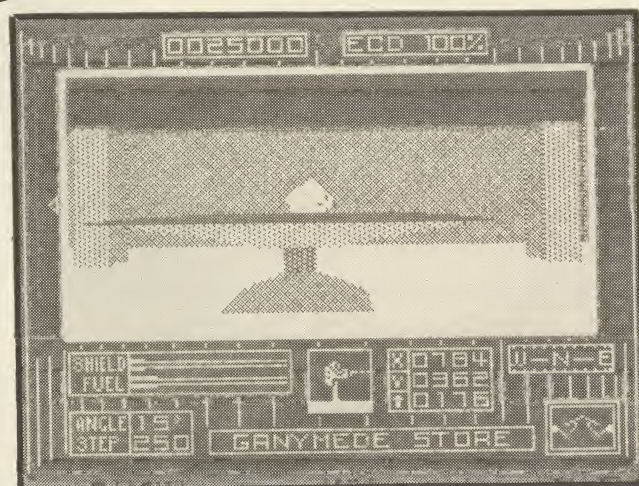
You'll never guess who won the fantastic +3 from our Dark Side compo. So we'll tell you. It was:

Shane Bigwood, Tareham, Hants.

And the rest of the unsightly lot listed get themselves a poster and a key ring each.

David Willett, Braellebridge Heath, Lincoln; Keith Crossen, Belfast; Paul Nolan, Southall, Middlesex; Mark Wilson, Hull, N Humberside; Struan Moore, West Calder, Scotland; Mike Stoute, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk; Andrew Richards, Bridgend, Mid-Glamorgan; Neil McDonald, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen; Phillip Welch, Wolverhampton, West Midlands; Nathan Ramsden, Wakefield, W Yorks; Ross Hamilton, Broxburn, West Lothian; Mr K P Ashby, Bolton, Lancs; Stephen Bellamy, County Durham; Stanley Silva, Woodberry Down, London; Billy Jackson, Mosley, Birmingham; Neil Bradley, Haworth, York; James Reid, Motherwell, Strathclyde; Mr J Gurney, Gillingham, Kent; David Griffiths, Harpenden, Herts; Simon Elliott, Mosley, Birmingham; Wai Lap Man, Carshalton, Surrey; William Bealby, Worksop, Notts; Andrew Bradley, Preston, Lancs; James Reid, Scotland; Stefen Lewis, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk; Vincent Daniels, Whalley

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ACE POWER!

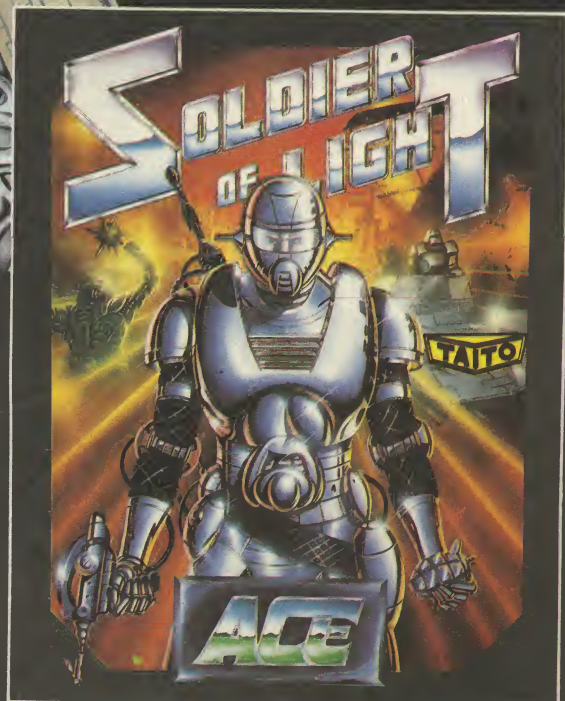
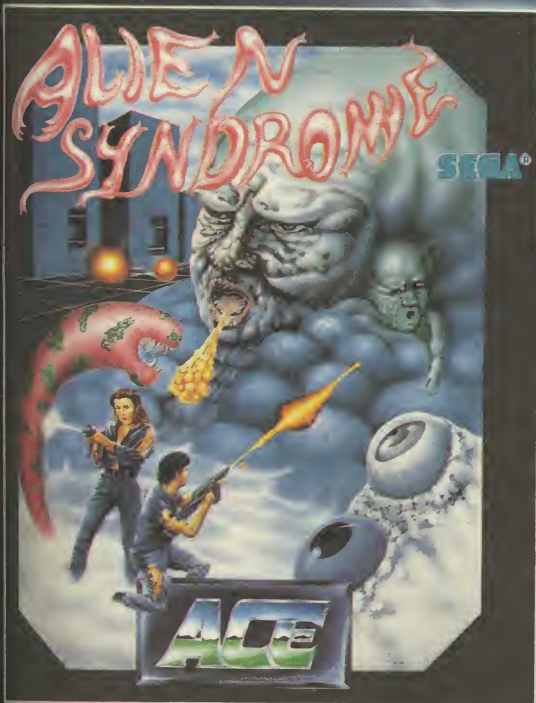


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conceivable form of nasty. Flyers, walkers, shooters and bumpers, weird and wonderful Gigeresque alien constructions and it's just so fast.

The most exciting thing about R-Type is the range of weapons available for collection at certain points in the game. By blowing away specific types of bad guys – usually walkers – a jewel will appear which, on collection will produce fantastic effects the next time you hit fire. The extras available include rocket bombs which home in on the nearest alien, reflective lasers which bounce around all over the shop and lots more besides.

I was surrounded. A thousand screaming alien goons coming at me from every single angle, wailing and firing and shooting for all they were worth. They never stood a chance. Swift moves and a happy trigger finger despatched the slimebags in an ionised cloud.

Of course, reversing into the ceiling and blowing myself to bits wasn't really a technically strategic move, but, come on – I'm nearly on the second level.

You've already read stacks about R-Type, so I don't need to explain the story. It's enough to say that it's probably the space shoot-out in the arcades, but is it any good on the Spec?

Marvellous. It's all colour and violence and weapons and death and more violence.



The first item to appear after a jewel pick-up is the Probe, a kind of revolving bumper affair which protects your ship, making you immune from head-on collision



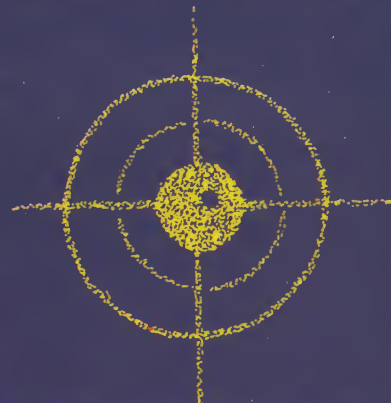
set just right. It's a very tough game indeed, and you'll be lucky to get past the first level after a couple of days, but whereas lots of other shoot-outs rapidly become impossible, R-Type still feels as if it can be cracked if you persevere. Even when you're horribly outnumbered, it is possible to move your way out of trouble.

After the initial waves of alien fighter formations, you gradually come into contact with nastier and nastier baddies. Inevitably, at the end of each level, you come across a huge monster which needs a whole cartload of firepower and a lot of strategy to

destroy. These are setpieces

of the game and they're so absurdly extravagant they'd be silly if they weren't so bloody difficult.

R-Type is a multi-load. After every few minutes of

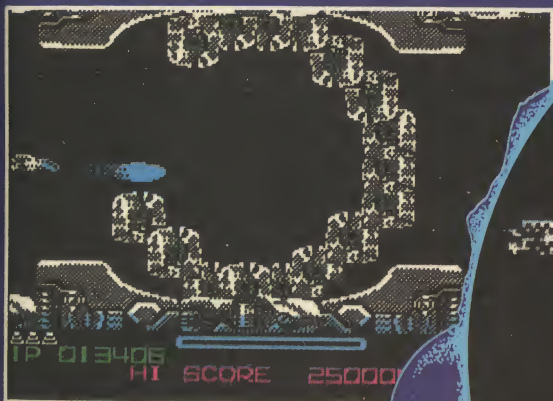


You pilot a single-seater spacecraft (which actually looks very stupid) into the heart of an alien planet with a view to destroy the whole place. Along the way, you'll come up against virtually every

with aliens. The probe can also be fired off into a high-risk area of the screen to clear a path. Of course, when it's not attached, you're vulnerable.

The level of difficulty is

R-T



scroll (assuming you could fly through unhampered) you have to load the next section. There are eight



levels in all, some of which are combined in one load, others requiring a load a piece.

Personally, I was in danger of spoiling my shirt with bile at the thought of



another scrolling space shoot-out, but R-Type proved me wrong, wrong wrong. It's fab. Colourful, action packed and a very faithful conversion. A+■



ARCADE

REVIEW

FAX BOX

R-TYPE Label: **Activision** Author: **Bob Pape**
 Price: £9.99 Memory: 48K/128K Joystick: various

GRAPHICS		SOUND	
80	80	70	70
PLAYABILITY		LAST ABILITY	
90	90	80	80

Possibly the best space shoot-'em-up conversion ever!

Reviewer: *Jim Douglas*

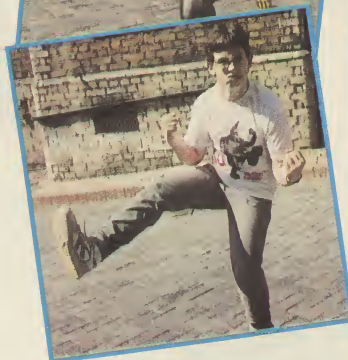
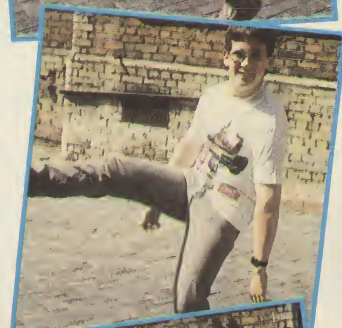
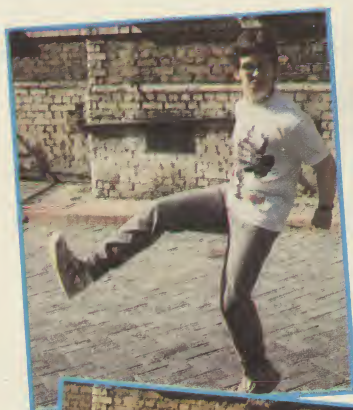
OVERALL

90

R-TYPE



oi! BUY! THIS!



No messin'. You young punks gotta be seen in this! The all-new 1988 **SU** T-Shirt is totally great and comes with the near legendary punk from the amazing Street Fighter issue of **SU**. It does not only guarantee instant credibility on the street, it comes in a choice of two fabulous sizes; XXL for really big people and medium for normal type people. It's also pretty cheap for something that is so totally marvellous. So buy it OK?

THE **SU** T-SHIRT COSTS £5.95

Please complete the form below:

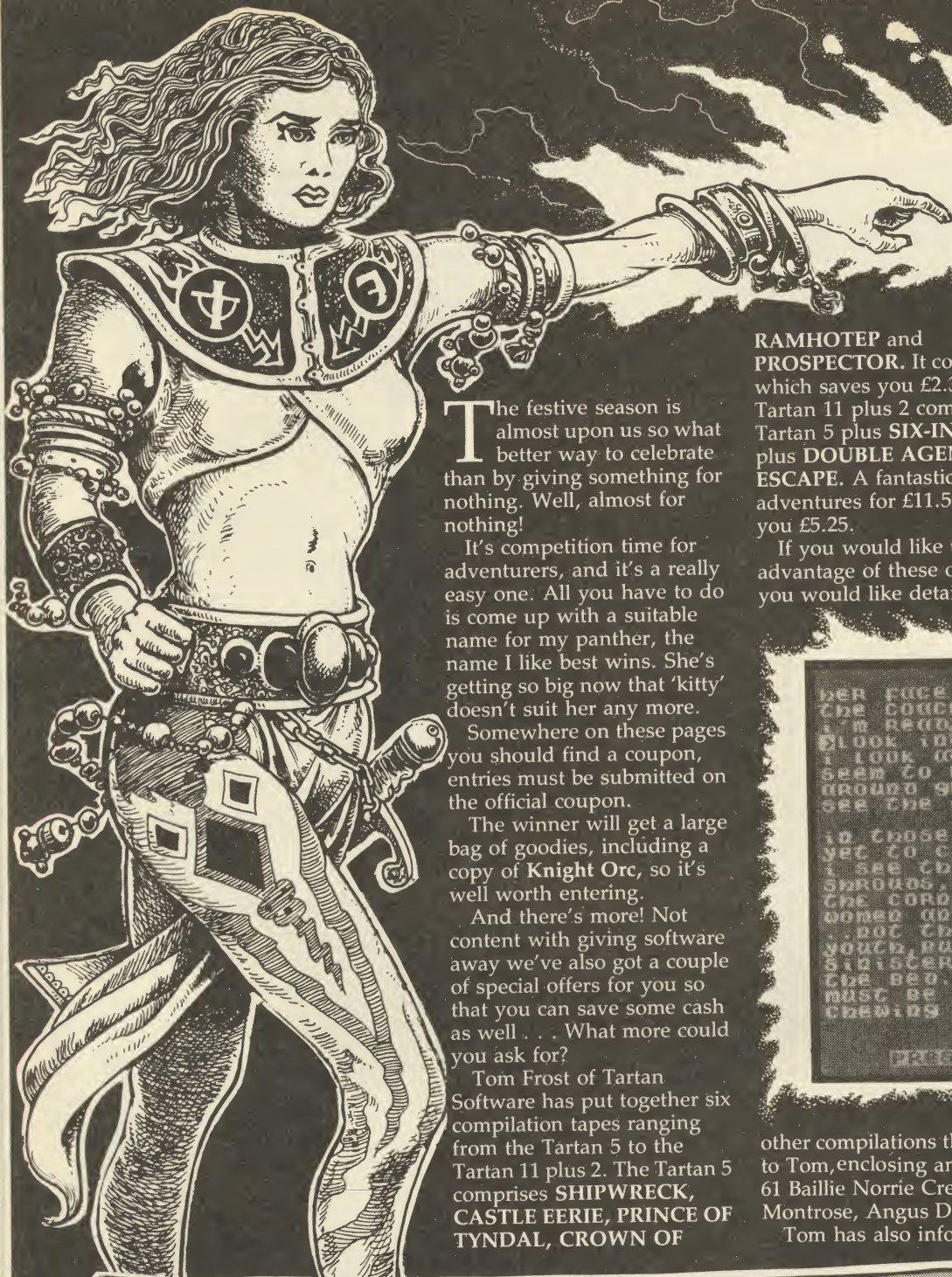
Send me T-shirt(s). I enclose a cheque or postal order, made payable to 'Sinclair User' for £..... (no of shirts times £5.95). This price includes postage and packing. I will wait 28 days for my T-shirt but no longer. I have ticked the size that I want.

Name

Address

Tick size required: Extra Large ☐ Medium ☐

SEnd completed form to: **SU** Punk T-Shirt Offer, EMAP PREMIUM SALES, 14 HOLKHAM ROAD, ORTON SOUTHGATE, PETERBOROUGH PE2 0UF



The festive season is almost upon us so what better way to celebrate than by giving something for nothing. Well, almost for nothing!

It's competition time for adventurers, and it's a really easy one. All you have to do is come up with a suitable name for my panther, the name I like best wins. She's getting so big now that 'kitty' doesn't suit her any more.

Somewhere on these pages you should find a coupon, entries must be submitted on the official coupon.

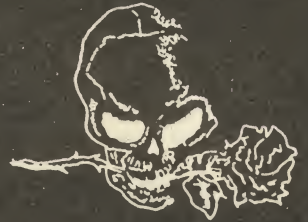
The winner will get a large bag of goodies, including a copy of **Knight Orc**, so it's well worth entering.

And there's more! Not content with giving software away we've also got a couple of special offers for you so that you can save some cash as well... What more could you ask for?

Tom Frost of Tartan Software has put together six compilation tapes ranging from the Tartan 5 to the Tartan 11 plus 2. The Tartan 5 comprises **SHIPWRECK**, **CASTLE EERIE**, **PRINCE OF TYNDAL**, **CROWN OF**

RAMHOTEP and **PROSPECTOR**. It costs £5.50 which saves you £2.35. The Tartan 11 plus 2 comprise Tartan 5 plus **SIX-IN-ONE** plus **DOUBLE AGENT** and **ESCAPE**. A fantastic 13 adventures for £11.50 saving you £5.25.

If you would like to take advantage of these offers or you would like details of the



her face is barely visible...
the couch rumbles on...
I'm ready for your instructions...
look into eyes...
I look at those dark eyes... they
seem to brighten, while all
around grows dim... I no longer
see the couch, nor her face!

in those deep pools I see images
yet to come! A dark room...
I see three people in white
gowns, clattering over a bed in
the corner... they are young
women and giggle intermittently
at the laughter of innocent
youth, but of something much more
sinister... there is someone in
the bed... hear noises... there
must be a dog here, yes a dog,
chewing a piece of meat?

12365 DON'T IN CONCO...TIME

other compilations then write to Tom, enclosing an SAE, at 61 Baillie Norrie Crescent, Montrose, Angus DD10 9DT.

Tom has also informed me

that the **DOUBLE AGENT** competition has been extended to 30th November 1988, so if you're quick you may still be in with a chance of winning £50 for the shortest possible solution.

Lee Hodgson of Essential Myth has also come up with a special off for **SU** readers. **JEKYLL & HYDE 48K** version on cassette for £6.95 saving you £1, 128K version on cassette for £7.95 saving you £2 and Spectrum Plus 3 version on disc for £10.95, saving you £3. Essential Myth hang out at 54 Church Street, Tewkesbury, Glos GL20 8RZ.

Laurence Jones of Colchester has asked me to recommend a few games for someone new to adventuring, not an easy task as there isn't that much about nowadays that would suit a raw beginner. However, Tom Frost's **SIX-IN-ONE** was written specifically for beginners. The first

This month I thought I'd give you the opening commands to get you on your way in a few adventures. They are all extracts from solutions sent in by Alan Phillips. Alan took the trouble to look me up at the PC Show to hand in his contribution.

DRACULA PART ONE

East, pay coachman, east, south, examine desk, ring bell, sign register, read register, north, up, unlock door, open door, north, look around, examine table, get lamp, examine drawer, light match, light lamp, drop lamp (placed on table), south, down, east, sit (at table), read menu... what follows next depends on your choice of menu so experiment.

S.M.A.S.H.E.D. Open locker, ask Crank about still, search pit, get money, north, east, nw, south, west, north, north, ask Fake for key, (looks but he can't find it), south, northeast, north (in bar), west (VIP tent), get cat, east, south, southwest, south, x-ray cat, north, west, enter chopper, switch on, pull joystick, (flying over

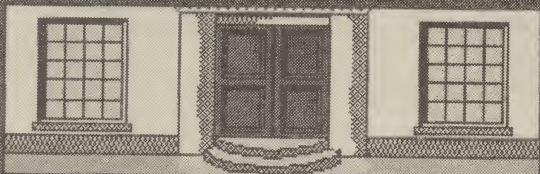
latrine, cat begins to retch and out comes the key - yuk!), land chopper, get key, down, east, south, unlock door (to medical store), west, get syringe, get pills, get catgut, get anaesthetic, get sodium pentathol, east, north, west, south, east...

Enter car, get gloves, leave car (hear thunder), north, north (outside house - door is already open), north, examine armour, west, west, play piano, get flute, east, east, north, west, examine hollow, read diary, east, northeast, east (kitchen garden, some hemlock and garlic here) get all, west, give garlic to cook, north (you can't go this way until you've given the garlic to the cook), examine ham (a small chamber has been made in the ham with a knife, if you eat it you will come out in a rash), put hemlock in ham (it is now poisoned), get ham, south, get knife, south, east, east, east, south, south (inside the shed), say to gardener "Hello" (the gardener throws you out), south, kill gardener, look in chest, get paper from chest, read paper...

Don't forget to look out for opening commands for Dracula part three next month.

THE SORCERESS

Stuck in a dungeon or helpless at the hands of fetid trolls? Write to
The Sorceress **SU** Priory Ct, 30-32 Farringdon Lane,
London EC1R 3AU.



You are standing outside a large, imposing house that towers above you. The driveway runs southwards and the doors of the house beckon you northwards.

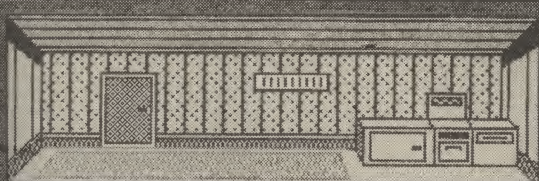
What will you do now?
RELAX FOR A WHILE AND MAYBE GET SOMETHING TO EAT✚

adventure even contains a tutorial to help you about solving it and each adventure after that gets progressively more difficult. The price is £4.95 and I wouldn't hesitate to recommend it.

Occasionally, amongst my mountain of letters, I receive fanzines to look at. One that caught my attention recently is BASIC. It isn't an adventure fanzine as such, but it does have a large

payable to The ZX Spectrum Club and sent to Kenny Jarman, 18 Poplar Close, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire SG18 9EW.

Gargoyle also writes an adventure section in a Fantasy Role Playing 'zine, namely PANDEMONIUM which has been going for about 16 issues and costs 70p from Matthew de Monti, 42 Kings Lane, Little Harrowden, Wellingborough, Northants NN9 5BL.



To the north is the pantry, to the east the kitchen garden and to the south the dining hall. There are also corridors to the west and south-west. You can also see a kitchen table and a carving knife. The cook is here.

What now?
GET KNIFE✚

adventure section written by The Greenock Gargoyle. The issue I saw had 19 A4 pages packed with adventuring material. If you are interested, the 'zine is issued quarterly and costs £1.10 plus 30p for p&p. Cheques/POs should be crossed and made

It looks as if I'll be getting a visit from Ingrid Bottomlow soon. Yes INGRID'S BACK (worse luck), so we'd better try and help you finish GNOME RANGER so that you'll be ready for the next onslaught from this 'delightful' young

lady.

To find out what your aim is in part three you must examine the gate. This is the mineral part of the game and Ingrid has to return its four gems so that she can return home.

The four gems are a diamond, an emerald, a ruby and a sapphire. The diamond will be found on Cloud 9, to get there from the cairn go west, southwest, west, northwest and northwest, but you will need help from the Yeti.

The emerald is in the rock garden but you need to solve the rock garden puzzle with a little help from a friend to escape with it.

The ruby is in the debris but you will need two hands to carry it. And, last, but not

least, the sapphire is at the far side of the lake. To get this you will need to use an icefloe and get some help from the penguins.

That's it folks! See you next month.

COUPON

NAME THAT PANTHER
COMPETITION

NAME

ADDRESS

I name that panther

in twelve letters (or less).

ANSWERS TO THE
SORCERESS AT THE
ABOVE ADDRESS, MARK
YOUR ENVELOPE
(COMPO)

Closing date December 14th
1988

WITTS END

Thanks to Alf Baldwin for providing most of the hints this month.

BLACK KNIGHT. In the Church, examine the altar and the carving. Push the angel to reveal a recess, Look in the recess to find a bible. Climb the oak tree to find some mistletoe, then search to find a lodestone. Examine the rushes in the kitchen to find a bone.

GREEN DOOR. Examine the tree and read the notice. Go in the direction given then shout the password you get. In the Green Witch's garden, say hello to be admitted. In the clearing, get the soap and give the hog a wash. Do not touch the umbrella, lightning will strike the metal handle.

RED DOOR. Search the haystack for a needle. Feed the cow with some hay to find a gold coin. Give the scroll to the Soothsayer. He will give you a key and a useful piece of advice. The key unlocks the box in the scarlet room.

SHIPWRECK. You need to tidy your cabin before you can find anything. Read the newspaper in the bar to discover the captain's name. Buy a drink and tip the barman. He treats you to a bottle of beer. Buy a map at the shop.

PROSPECTOR. Start by buying the candies at the general store. Eat the candies so that you have an empty box to carry the nails in. The nails may be found at the rubbish dump. Also get the bag and unravel it to give you a long length of string.

LUDOIDS. To finish the game. **AQUA:** Go to the store room. Take and wear the life jacket and get the harpoon. Look periscope, turn periscope west to locate the Ludoid city. In the control room, push port control to send sub in the right direction to ram the city. Open the hatch and you'll be sucked out into the water. Shoot the octopus with the harpoon. Wait until the city explodes and press your detonator



SHADES

Arguably, there is one big drawback to playing games by mail – the wild wacky antics of Her Majesty's Postal System.

There's not a single PBM player that hasn't, at some time, had vital orders go astray, or had to wait, and wait, and wait for results to arrive. Then, on the other hand, playing face to face has its drawbacks, too.

The game may be many miles away in any case – so periods of arduous travel are necessary to get involved . . . and it becomes a bit frustrating when you are knocked out in the first three turns – having travelled across several thousand miles of pack ice to play in the first place.

Then there is the problem of actual interpersonal relations within a live group. It's easy to intimidate other players in a game if you have an aggressive literary attitude and are 6' 1". Not so easy if you are five foot one and looking up at this six foot seven Yeti that has just appeared with a freshly killed headless ferret under his arm. And then there's interplayer violence itself. Of course, beating adversaries and unreliable allies to a messy pulp is strongly discouraged in PBM circles – but thank heavens it's usually made so much harder by the fact that the combatants are usually separated by two or three counties.

From personal experience I can tell you that, on occasion, face-to-face games can get a little heated – and while it's always nice to see the Youth of Today letting off a little steam in boisterous fashion, when you're on the receiving end of an authentic Glaswegian Kiss it kind of alters your perspective.

Problems, problems. If the Royal Mail don't spoil your fun, the sociopaths will. But never fear – technology has



the answer to hand with on-line games such as **MUD** (Multi User Dungeon) and **Shades** . . . the Micronet Multi User on-line game that Telemap claims clocks up around 4,000 hours per week in total. And that's quite a lot.

On-line games, for those who might have spent the last 14 years with their heads in a bucket, are played via a modem, linking your Speccy into a mighty mainframe machine . . . well not only yours, actually, but in the case of **Shades**, up to 128 happy users.

You play the game while the other users are also playing it – and you'll meet them, talk to them, and sometimes be brutally maimed by them – but there's no waiting for orders to arrive and the embarrassment of personal contact is avoided completely.

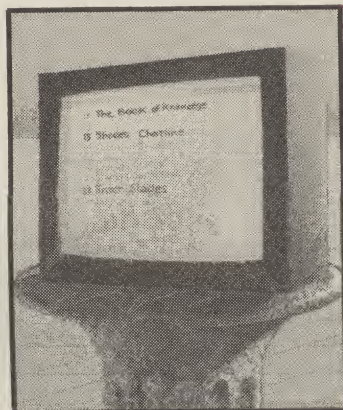
Shades itself isn't like a full blown PBM game, where you have to plan strategies and alliances and so on. It's more like a dynamic adventure crossed with an RPG.

Commands are typed in typical adventure fashion (North, South, East, West, Take, Kill, etc) and descriptions are purely in text too, but the game has an atmosphere of its own and the fact that there are many other players in the game at the same time makes it infinitely variable. One word of warning, however – the game has generated at least one friendship that blossomed into marriage – a tactic only the most diehard of players would use as a tool of diplomacy.

Apart from the phone bill – which can soar ludicrously – it'll cost 6.5p per minute

(that's £3.09 per hour) to play **Shades** – so cheap it isn't, but for a different slant to distance gaming, it's well worth having a try.

Available via Prestel, Micronet and now Telecom Gold. For further details write to Telemap Group Ltd, Durrant House, 8 Herbal Hill, London EC1R 5EJ.





THALAMUS



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REMIX

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If you thought the PC Show was full of coin-ops – you would have loved the recent Associated Leisure Preview in London . . . vids, vids, more vids and a sprinkling of pins all on free play. We braved the Aliens to bring you the best . . .

The video game business is a bit like baseball . . . errr . . . that is, it's all about hits – groan, sorry Mum, etc. But honest guv, if the operators think a game is hot on the street, then that is the unit they are going to spend big pennies on and put in their arcades.

There were four or five hot games at this year's pre-Christmas show, and driving is definitely in!

Power Drift (you read it here first, pal) looks like it's going to be next year's **Outrun**, and the full "fling the punter around until he

gets re-acquainted with his breakfast" version was in great evidence . . . to you, only the odd 10 grand.



Slots – with a difference

Here's something unusual for you. Unveiled at the Associated Leisure Preview this year was – as you can see – pay for play slot car racing. You have a throttle and four gears to play with and play head to head with another. But the vital ingredient is missing . . . you can't spin off around the corners, as the

Ninja Kajan

Here's one that you might not have seen before . . . it's only on test at the moment, but I estimate that it's destined for its own bit of glory.

Think of a cross between **Double Dragon**, **Super Mario Brothers** and, wait for it, **R-Type**? Now if that didn't take a certain amount of imagination, tell me what does!

It's a fun beat-'em-up, you can shoot weapons . . . as in **Ghosts and Goblins** – but if you hold the fire button down, a power meter increases, and at maximum it zaps a mega bolt of something or other that spells instant death to nasties.

The large amount of jumpy, jumpy and finding secret passages through levels plus extra bonuses makes it a bit



like **Super Mario** – but that is no bad thing in itself, is it?

But the way, all these classic elements have been combined, rather than ripped off, produces the best playing game I've laid hands on in quite some time.

There's smooth horizontal scrolling as you go through the different levels – each level representing an area of the world (the first being USA) and vertical scrolling too as you jump up various platforms to get the big wobbly bonuses.

Ninja Kajan – coming to an arcade near you soon and well worth raiding the Swiss bank account for.

FAXBOX

Perfect combination of genres that combine to make a real contribution to road safety.

Audio 8
Graphics 8
Gameplay 9
Addictiveness 9

OVERALL
RATING
9



POWER DRIFT



OPS

More great news – an upright version of **Final Lap** was on show, and proving very popular . . . especially as the exhibitors had

whole thing is enveloped by a perspex dome and the cars, seemingly, welded to the track.

What actually happens is that there are speed limits on various corners that are shown by small LED's – and if you exceed the limit, you are forcibly slowed down for a few seconds, losing valuable time if Player Two got it right but you didn't.

OK it was. Hugely addictive and over the moon fun, it wasn't. But what will they think of next???



ASSAULTS

linked two units together and you could race four cars at a time. With these cheaper units – which also take up less space – it's more likely that you'll see this linking together of **Final Laps** happen a lot more – and take my word for it, twice as many players is four times as much fun!

Driving is definitely in right now – with **Chase HQ** (reviewed on this very page) reputedly being the highest grossing machine around for some time. Possibly a follow-up to **Operation Wolf** from Taito there.

Assault from Namco, surely the best tank game since **Battle Zone**, proved to be very popular – and expect to see the techniques used in that game (rotating whole screens plus expanding/contracting sprites and background) hit home micros next year.

Chase HQ (Taito)

Driving games are in, right? OK – but what do most driving games lack? A generous portion of gratuitous violence, that's what. What about **Roadblaster**, I hear you cry – Violence? Call that violence? This is what I call violence – KABOOM!! CRASHHHH!!!! FREEZE PUNK! NAA-GETS, NAA-GETS, NAA-GETS! WABBA-WABBA-WABBA-WABBA! Get the picture – this is what it's like in **Chase HQ**.

You have the normal steering wheel, hi-low gears, accelerator, brake driving set-up – and the usual "behind the car" view of the action and the road. But this time you are turbo charged special detective Tony Gibson in your black Porsche. Hark, is that something on the radio? "Nancy here, Tony. We've got an emergency here. The Idaho Slasher has been spotted and is flying towards the suburbs in



a white sports car, over."

Over what, we may well ask – but in any case get the hell out there and drive that mother off the road.

No guns involved here – at least not until you drive the baddie down, bash into his car

several times and overtake him. Then it's knee in the back, gun to the head and "I'm sorry Sir, your right to silence has been temporarily suspended – normal civil rights will be resumed as soon as possible."

Fast, furious, fun – **Chase HQ** is a winner.



FAXBOX

Chase-race game that'll have you on the edge of your seat . . . assuming that you were sitting down in the first place.

Audio 8
Graphics 8
Addictiveness 9
Gamplay 9

OVERALL RATING

9

COMPILATIONS

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Dare, Danger Mouse — Double Trouble, Danger
Mouse — Making Whoopee, Darkstar, Steve
Davis Snooker, Defenda, Devils, Dizzy, Enduro,
Enigma Force, Everyone's A Wally, Exterminator,
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Spiders, Howard the Duck, Howzat, Hungry
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Harry, Mad Martha, Manic Miner, Mantronic,
Marsport, Milk Race, Monocross, Mountie
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Bedlam (128K), Big Trouble in Little China,
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Dead, Boulderdash 1, Boulderdash 2, Breakthru,
Bride of Frankenstein, Bubbler, Captain America,
Centurions, Challenge of Gobots, Championship
Spirit, Cholo, Chronos, Chuckie Egg, Chuckie Egg
2, City Slicker, Convo Raider, Costa Capers,
Crystal Castles, Custard Kid, Death or Glory,
Deathscape, Death Wish 3, Defektor, Defon,
Donkey Kong, Double Take, Dragons Lair,
Dragons Lair 2, Draughts Genius, Druid, Druid II,
Energy Warrior, Equinox, Express Raider, Fairlight
2, Funky, Football Manager, Footballer of the
Year, Frankenstein, Friday 13th, Galactic Games,
Gauntlet, Gauntlet — Deeper Dungeons, Gerry
the Germ, Ghostbusters (128K), Grand Prix
Tennis, Grange Hill, Guadalupe, Gunfight,
Gunslinger, Hackcoach, Headcoach, Head
Over Heels, Highlander, High Frontier, Hive,
Icups, Implosion, Impossible Mission (not + 2
compatible), Infiltrator, International Karate, Into
the Eagles Nest, It's A Knockout, Jack the Nipper
II, Knightmare, Krackout, Kung Fu Master, Last
Mission, Last Mohican, Little Computer People
(128K), Lords of Midnight, Maelstrom,
Mandrill, Manic Miner, Jet Set Willy 2,
Markonoids, Mask I, Mask II, Masters of Universe
(Arcade), Barry McGuigans Boxing (48K), Barry
McGuigans Boxing (128K), Metrocross, Miami
Vice, MicroNAUT I, Mixx, Molecule Man, Monty
on the Run, Moonstrike, Mr Weems and the She
Vampires, Mutants, Mystery of the Nile, Nemesis,
Nemesis Warlock, Nether Earth, Nihilist, Night
Gunner, Oink (3 games), Out of the World,
Pentagram, Play It Again Sam, Plexar, Pole
Position, President, PSI Trading Co., Pub Games,
Pyraurce, Quartet Firetrap, Ramparts, Red Led,
Red Scorpion, Rocky Horror Show (128K), Buck
Rogers, Sai Combat, Samurai Trilogy, Saracen,
SAS Strike Force, Shadow Skimmer, Shao Loo
Road, Sherlock, Sidewalk, Shockway Rider,
Sidewize, Sigma 7, Slaine, SOS, Solomon's key,
Split Personalities, Spy v Spy — Island Caper,
Starfox, Star Paws, Star Raiders II, Strike Force
Hannib, Sunstar, Superman, Supercycle, Super
Spring, Survivor, Tapper, Taucat, Tantalus,
Thantoss, The Big Squeeze, The Boggit, The Tube,
They Stole a Million, Three Weeks in Paradise
(128K), Throne of Fire, Trailblazer, Trap, Thing
Bounces Back, To Jod, Ultimate Combat Mission,
Uridium, War, War of the World, Who Dares Wins,
Wolfman, Xevios, Zub, + 80 Address Manager,
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I'VE GOT THIS PROBLEM

... WITH A SMUTTY PRINTER

Recently I got a second hand ZX Printer. It manages loading screens OK, but normal letters and listings are hardly readable. Even with a new roll of paper fitted there's no difference.

It doesn't matter what I use, **Tasword** or **MiniOffice**, the output is unreadable. What can I do about it?

Mark Bentley
Taplow
Berks

● And indeed the samples enclosed look pretty bad (this is not a request for you all to send in your samples. I know you lot).

Good news. Most of the ZX Printer's problems can be put down to smut. No, not that sort of smut; the sort of carbon soot that gets sprinkled around the innards of the printer when the shiny metal coating gets burned off the paper. To clean up the beast, just unplug it, unhook the paper roll, and dust off all those nooks and crannies with a fine paint brush. Finish by giving the innards a good blast of air.

If this doesn't work, then some of the internal workings have got clogged by the demon dust. Sometimes a Hoover works; whatever happens don't try to take the printer apart. Pack it off to a professional fixing shop.

By the way, Mark, I'm donating your samples to the local teaching hospital.

... WITH POKES

I'm a pensioner who has taken up computing as a hobby. It's great fun!

But I've got this problem. I've been exploring graphics programming with a book written by Piers Letcher. It's got some sprite editor routines, and when I type them in, load them from tape to my Spectrum 128 and then run them they're fine.

When I try to save and load them from my Opus Discovery 1 disk system they won't work. Is there anything you can do to help me?

Mr R T Clarke
Exmouth
Devon

● Thanks for the listing; I've had a look at it. Unfortunately, you don't say what the problem is with the program! My best guess (and it is only a guess) is that the program pokes in its machine code in places which aren't safe when the Discovery is plugged in, and consequently crashes. And, without rewriting all the machine code, it might not be possible to move it somewhere safe in memory.

Try writing to the author of the book, care of the publishers. I've been surprised in the past how helpful writers can be.

But probably the best thing you can do now, especially as you're finding the computer such fun to program, is start to learn machine code. It really isn't difficult if you're armed with one of the excellent books available on the subject (most of them are very good), and the benefits are enormous. Then you'll be able to solve not only this problem, but all the others that crop up and stump magazine columnists . . .

... WITH MULTIFACE 3

Having bought a Multiface 3 for my +3, after reading all the raves in the press, I received it minus instructions to find it only actually copies 1 in 10 of my tape games to disk. All the others are locked.

Is there any way around this, or have I been ripped off????

I Roberts
Clwyd
N Wales

● In the turbulent, murky world of the Spectrum add-on market the Romantic Robot mob have been generally seen as good guys. It sounds to me like you've got a broken Multiface, or one with very old software. Certainly the lack of instructions is a bit of a mystery . . .

Either take it back to the place where you bought it, or get in contact with Romantic. They don't like unhappy customers, and get rid of them fast. In the nicest possible way.

... WITH PRINTER DECISIONS

I am thinking of purchasing a Dixon's serial 8056 printer for my Spectrum +. What is the cheapest method of connecting them together, and where should I obtain it?

Will I be able to use the LPRINT, LLIST and COPY commands? If not what would I use as alternatives? How about **Tasword II**?

Cameron Patterson
Berwick-upon-Trent
Northumberland

● I'd think twice before buying the Serial 8056 printer. This little gen has been around for a while; it was originally intended to be used with an IBM computer that never got launched in this country. Rumour has it that the best way the people with a warehouseful of these printers could think of to get rid of them was to bundle them with Speccys. There's a lot of difference between a Spectrum and an IBM, and as a result you'll need something like a Sinclair Interface 1 to connect a Spectrum + to the printer.

Make sure that you get a tape with a program on with the printer, otherwise LPRINT and LLIST will work, but COPY won't.

If you can cough up the extra dosh, think seriously about a parallel Epson-compatible printer like a Star or an Amstrad. With a suitable interface, all the BASIC commands will work and you'll get a much better quality of output. Lots of people write to me about which printer to buy; it's very much a personal choice but if it's parallel and Epson-compatible most software will work with it. If you've got a +3, then you won't even need an interface.

.. WITH +2

We've just got a Spectrum +3, and with the special tape lead it seems to run all our old Spectrum 48K games perfectly!

We bought **Road Runner**, for use with the Spectrum 48K/128+2 but it refuses to load. It works perfectly on a friend's 48K.

Could you tell me if it should run in the +3's 48K mode or if games for the +2 are not supposed to work?

F W Mintram
Guildford
Surrey

● Well, FW, any 48K only game should run happily on the +3 in 48K Basic mode. Most +2 games should work happily with the +3 if loaded from 128 Basic, but some won't.

As for Road Runner, it could be one of those games that won't work with the +3 in any mode. There aren't many of these, and I doubt many more will be written now that the +3 has been about for more than a year.

One final check - does the tape load on your friend's 48K Speccy using your tape player?

... POKES (2)

I've had my +2 for some time, and have been having real problems in loading games. For example, your mag's excellent 100 Pokes tape loads perfectly but when I try to load **Dan Dare** or **Barbarian** afterwards they refuse to run.

If I load them without a poke, they run perfectly. Some games seem to be loading, but reset later. I've fiddled with the azimuth screw; I've changed the computer twice; I've sacrificed ten sea slugs (no he didn't - I added this bit. Dr R).

J Vasey
Newcastle upon Tyne

● Right then, the perennial loading problem. The usual suggestions apply, as you obviously don't have a broken +2 you should try moving the computer away from the TV as this can interfere with loading and saving. If things just go wrong with the 100 Pokes tape, then there's a chance that the long trip North has disturbed its magnetic domains; try with a friend's tape and see whether things get better. If they do, you got a duff tape and should send it back to be replaced.

(but Dr. Rupe has the answer)



This month we look at interfaces and Damian Scattergood gives advice on using the Spectrum ports to their best advantage.

HOW

... DID DOMINIC ROBINSON

CHARACTER SQUARE

Are my eyes deceiving me or do I really see more than the usual two colours per character square in the high score table of Uridium? How did Dominic Robinson manage to create such an effect? Is he rapidly switching screens?

No, your eyes are not deceiving you. There are in fact more than two colours per character square as you describe. This is what we call

the Rainbow Processor in action, and to understand the principle, you need to know something about how the TV image is created.

What happens is that 50 times a second the Spectrum hardware scans through the display file and the attributes file together, picking up the data which controls the form of the TV image. The cycle time of 50 times per second has been chosen deliberately to match the sweep of the

electron beam on the TV screen. This also writes from top to bottom of the screen 50 times per second. It is a bit like an electronic pencil writing the colours on the screen as a beam, sweeping from the top left corner to the top right corner then moving back to the left, slightly below the starting point, sweeping across the right, then back to the left, sweeping across from the right, jumping back to the left, sweeping across to the

right etc. until the whole of the screen image has been painted.

The great trick about the Rainbow Processor is that the data which controls the colour to be put on the screen is switched at just the right instant as the beam sweeps down the TV screen. The software which controls the Rainbow Processor "knows" when a new screen image is to be painted, because the Spectrum hardware generates

... CAN YOU EXPLAIN

Please could you tell me what a mask is and what use is it? Also, could you explain what 'reserving something in a buffer' means?

Sure thing Phillip. As with any other subject, people who are involved with it quickly develop their own jargon for discussing work that they are doing. Once they get the hang of it the jargon is quite useful, but for the newcomer it can be a mite confusing.

The term "mask" is used to refer to the piece of a picture that must be cut out when a moving graphic image is placed on top of the main picture. Imagine for example that you want to show an image of a figure walking across in front of a house on the ZX Spectrum screen. The easiest way to do this is to draw a picture of a house on the screen and fill in all the colour, the windows, the brickwork, the sky, the ground, the

pavement outside etc. You can imagine this job as being a bit like drawing a loading screen for a game. Now you want to put a figure in front of that picture and have him walk across in front of the house. Obviously you can construct an image of the figure using User Defined Graphics (UDGs). You can then write a little program to place the figure at the top of the main picture. If you experiment using the *Print* instruction in a Basic Program to print your UDG on the screen you will find that your figure blanks out too much of your background picture. This is because the *Print* instruction overwrites a complete character square at a time. Alternatively, you can use the *Print Over* instruction but the unfortunate thing is that this has the effect of making your figure appear transparent, so that the background shows through in the form of your figure. What

you require is to be able to cut-out from the picture an outline of your figure and then place your figure into that outline. This is what is called a "mask" and the technique is referred to as "masking".

The word "buffer" is used to describe the piece of memory which a program reserves for communication purposes. If you think about it the micro-processor at the heart of the ZX Spectrum has to communicate with four different devices, generally speaking. These devices are the keyboard, the screen, a printer and the cassette player. Of these four devices, three of them are buffered and the fourth, the cassette player is not.

Let us look at the cassette player first, since it is the only device which is not buffered. We know it is not buffered, because when the cassette player is in use the computer is incapable of doing anything

else. All Spectrum users are familiar with the stripy lines which appear on the TV screen when a program is being saved to cassette, or loaded from cassette. We all know that when these lines are in evidence there is nothing else we can do with our computers. We just have to sit and wait until the saving or loading process is complete. Contrast this with the situation when you press a key. The keyboard is buffered – there is a special system variable available called LAST K at address 23560 which is used to store the value of the last key press that has occurred. This is the keyboard buffer.

The exact mechanism is as follows. 50 times a second the Spectrum interrupts what it is currently doing and goes and has a look at the keyboard. If a key is being pressed, then it stores a value in the keyboard buffer which refers to the key



THE HELL!!!

WHY CAN'T WE GET MULTI-COLOUR SCREENS IN URIDIUM?

an interrupt at just the right instant. The Rainbow Processor itself is put inside the interrupt routine of the Spectrum.

By our calculations, each sweep across the TV screen from left to right takes approximately 224 T-States, and there are about 70 pixel lines from the top of the TV screen to the beginning of the display file, so the first thing the Rainbow Processor does is to wait for approximately

224 x 70 T-States (which equals 15680 T-States) to wait for the electron beam to get into the display file. In order to create a rainbow effect, it is simply a matter of changing a complete character row of attributes every 224 T-States as the beam sweeps down the screen.

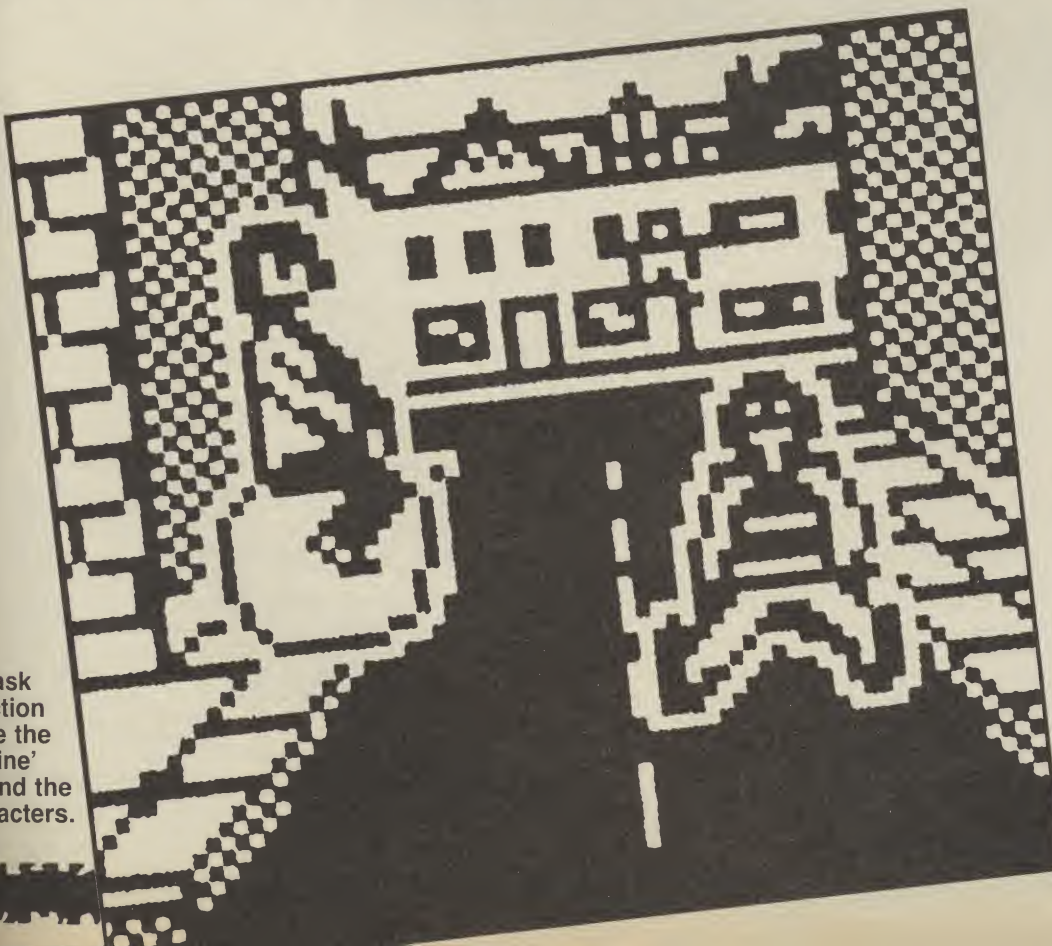
We have found that it is not possible to change all 32 attribute squares on a character row, because 224 T-States is not long enough to

do so. We can achieve about 20 characters out of the 32 in total. We also find it necessary to tune-up the Rainbow Processor routine by adding or removing the odd NOP instruction in order to get a precise rainbow effect. This can be quite difficult because as soon as your timing goes astray the screen image becomes very jumbled.

In summary, this is not a technique which can be attempted by the novice

machine code programmer which is why there are not many commercial programs on the market which exhibit the effects. However, once you understand how the software works you'll be surprised to discover that a decent Rainbow Processor routine can be very short, perhaps as little as 150 bytes of code.

WHAT A 'MASK' IS?

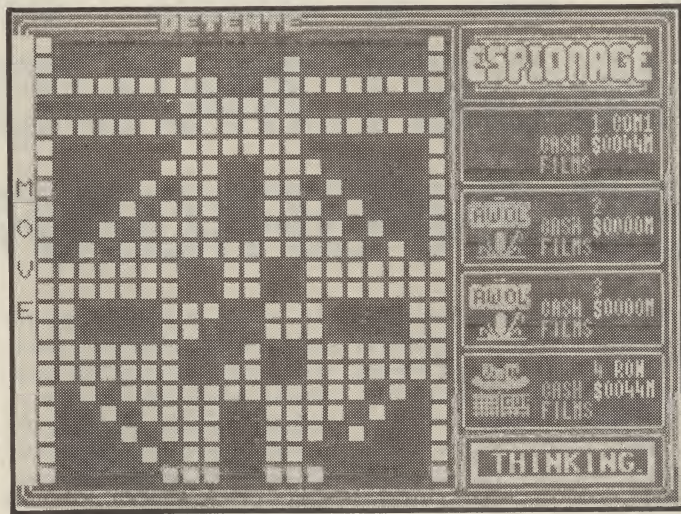
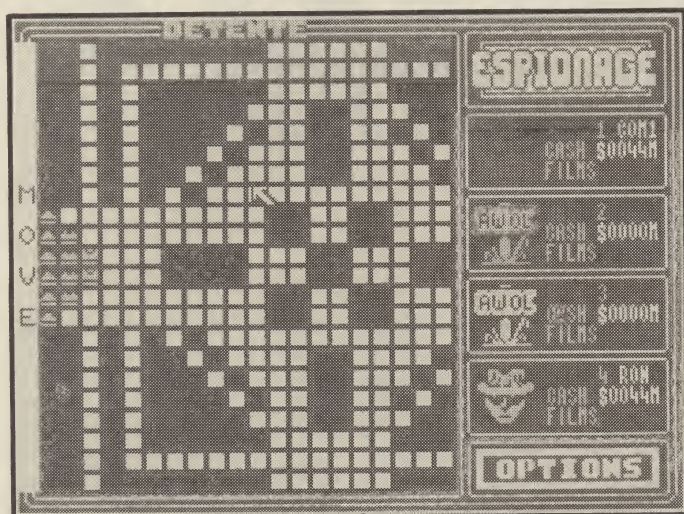


A mask in action - see the 'outline' around the characters.

being pressed. Once this simple job has been done, the Spectrum returns to whatever it was doing before it was interrupted. The value remains in the keyboard buffer until it is overwritten by a later key press or is read by an *Inkeys* or an *Input* command in the main program.

The great advantage of the buffer system is clearly illustrated in this example of its use with the keyboard. The main program does not know or care when the user presses a key. When the program is ready it goes and looks in the keyboard buffer to see if a key press has occurred. If a key press has occurred then the value is there for the program to use. Thus the effect of a buffer is to de-couple the running of the micro-processor from the device to which it is linked. Contrast this situation with the keyboard with that for the tape loader.

ESPIONAGE

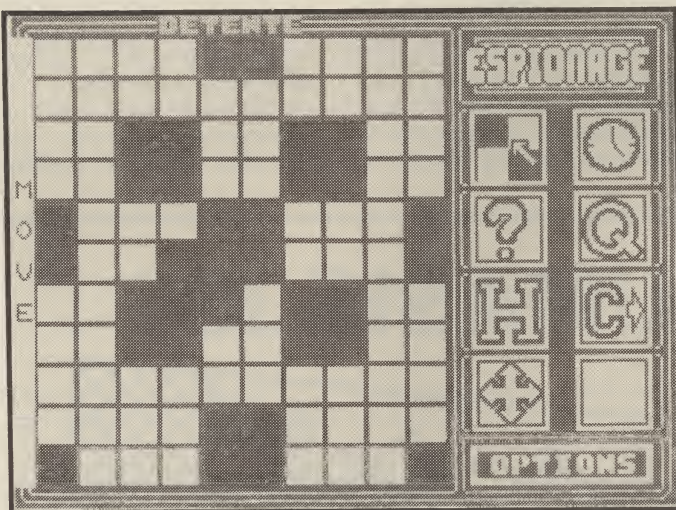


Do you want to enter the wild and mysterious world of spy and counterspy? How about dealing in strange markets like microfilm and illegal weaponry? Or maybe you'd just like to recreate your favourite scene from the latest Bond movie. Whatever the case, it's excitement, thrills and spills you're after, you could do a lot better than **Espionage**.

Beating all their rivals by an incredibly small margin (£5), Grandslam managed to snap up the licence to this fairly unknown game at quite an extortionate cost (£5). The question is, is it worth half of my salary? No. Definitely not.

In working man's (pleb) terms, **Espionage** is Chess without the complexities. You control 12 agents as they trek around the globe in search of four microfilms. Why they have to search is beyond me, as all four microfilms are grouped together in the centre of the board. The globe is represented by a grid of black, white and red squares. The black squares are no go areas for the spies, the white and red squares are where the player's home bases are.

Each of the four possible players (human or computer controlled) takes it in turn to move one of their spies. The 6 courier agents can only move diagonally across the board, but over as many squares as they like. The four secret agents can move in any direction they so please. The 2 surveillance agents can only move up, down, left and right (not



diagonally).

Players take opposing pieces as in draughts; they jump them. Obviously, once all your opponent's pieces are removed from the board, the game gets a lot easier.

The screen is laid out in two windows. On the left is the main window. It's this one that takes up most of the screen and shows a segment of the board, which can be scrolled to show any part of the game. On the right is a status/score window that shows all the players' scores and films collected (if any.) At the bottom of this window is a box labelled 'Options'. click the pointer on this, and a whole bunch of options comes up. Basic things like pause game and quit as well as pretty handy computer hint facility, with which the computer thinks long and hard and comes up with the best

possible move you could do in your current situation.

Graphics aren't anything special. Just a coloured grip

and some fairly basic icon graphics. One thing I do like is the pictures of the characters at the side of the screen.

Whichever of the four players is currently active holds a newspaper in front of his face.

Control is fairly simple. A pointer moves around on screen under your control, and moving the pieces is simply a case of clicking on the piece concerned and then clicking on the square you want it to jump to. The pointer is a little slow.

So there you have it. A basically run-of-the-mill boardgame conversion that doesn't come anywhere near the fun generated by playing the real thing and it costs a few quid more. That's what I call VFM■

ARCADE

REVIEW

ESPIONAGE
 In-house
 128K Joystick: various

GRAPHICS
 71

SOUND
 46

PLAYABILITY
 66

LAST ABILITY
 53

Label: Grandslam
Price: £9.95
Memory: 48K/

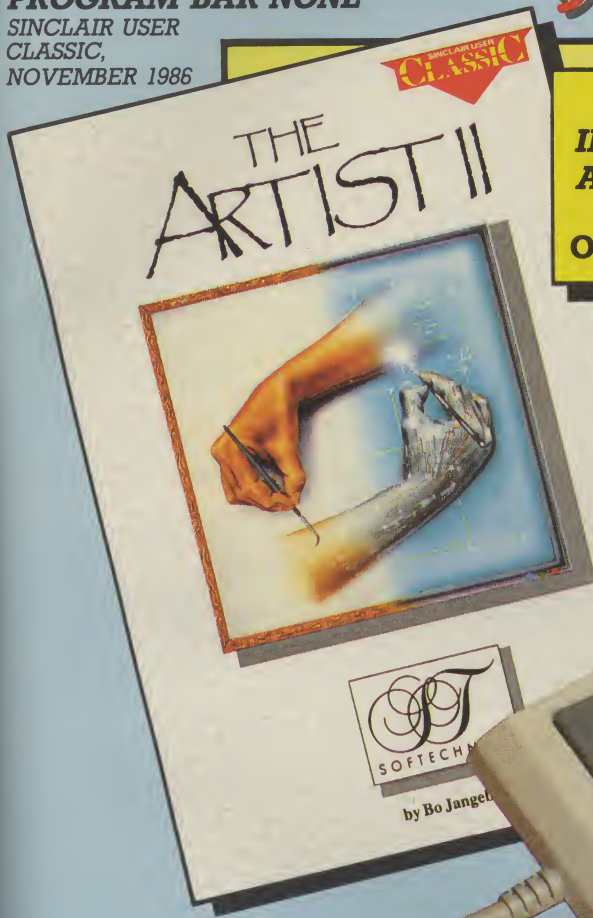
Pretty boring conversion of a prtty boring boardgame. Just call me 008
 Reviewer: *Tony Dillon*

OVERALL
61

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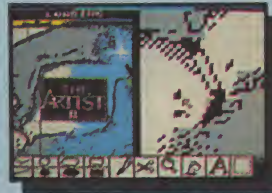
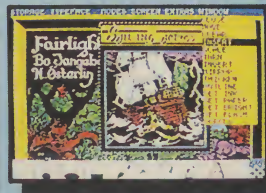
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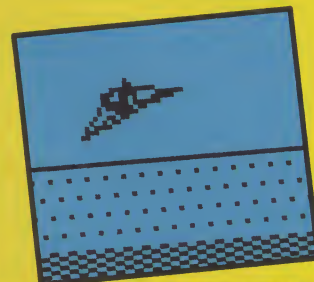
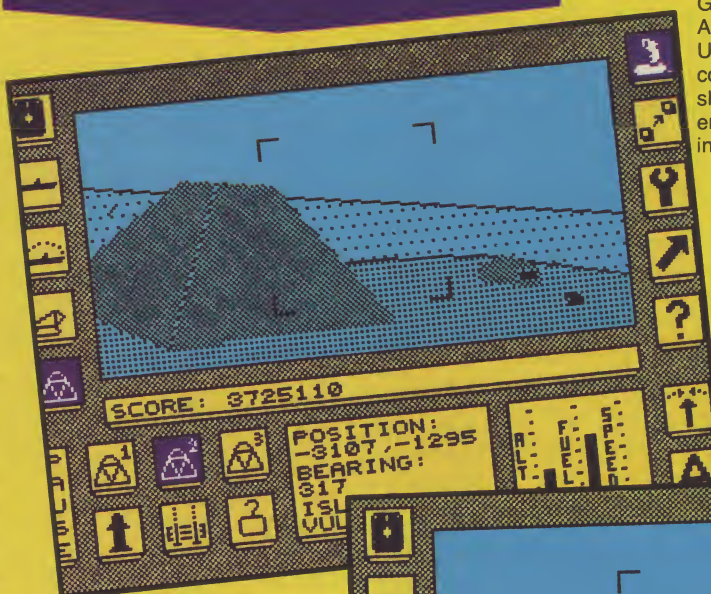
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THE PROGRAMMERS

Realtime Software have – between them – produced all the versions of the game. Andy Onions has been programming for about nine years and set up Realtime with Ian Oliver and Graeme Baird about 5 years ago. After they met at Leeds University on a computer science course, it emerged that they shared similar ideas and all enjoyed fishing about in new machines.

OoooOO! Welcome again, to the page that is your window on the games development biz. How are all those astounding effects created? Why does everything look blue? Why has it taken so bloody long? This is the sort of impertinent question that we ask every month. And sometimes, we even get an answer...

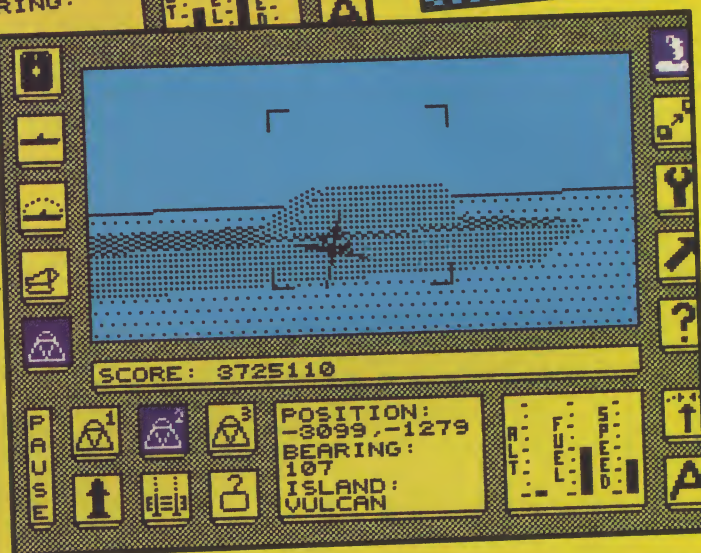


CARRIER COMMAND

Carrier Command has all the hallmarks of a game that you simply can't convert to the Spectrum. Not only is it a vast strategy epic with islands to invade and troops to deploy and supplies to run out; it's also choc-a-flaming-block full of filled 3D graphics, dogfights and action.

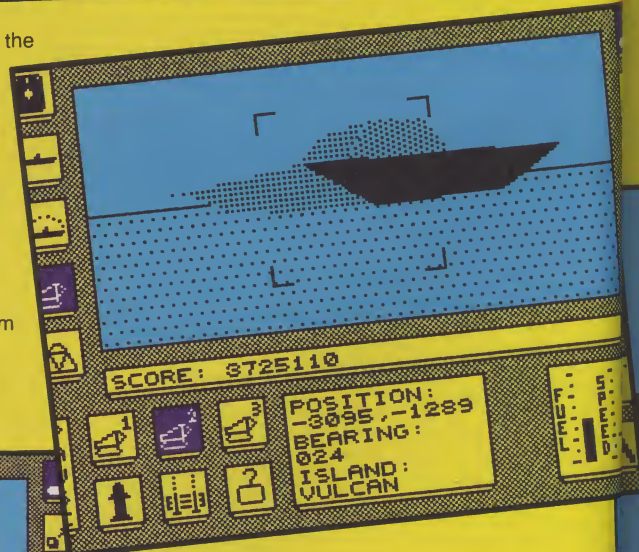
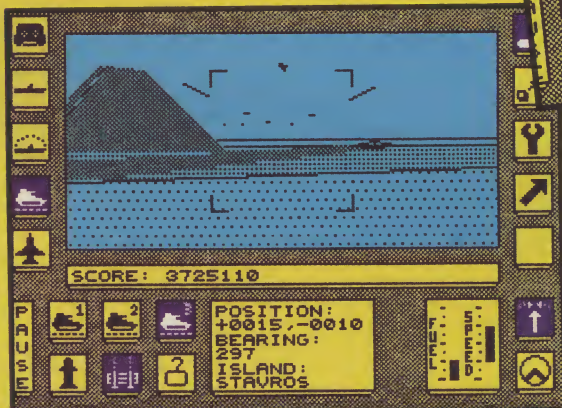
THE ORIGINAL

CC originally existed on the ST and happily filled the machine's memory capacity. It incorporated flight simulation, battle strategy and Kingdom style island management. Each section was equivalent to the capabilities of the Spec. It was the ultimate ST game, involving more elements than you could master in months.



SOUND

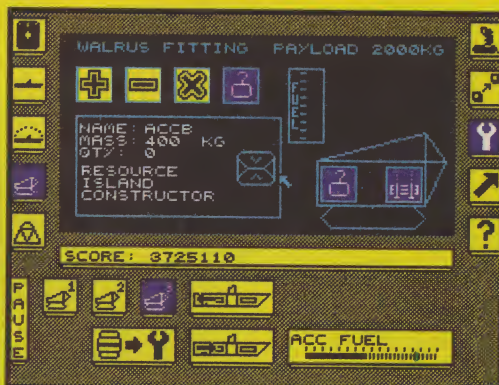
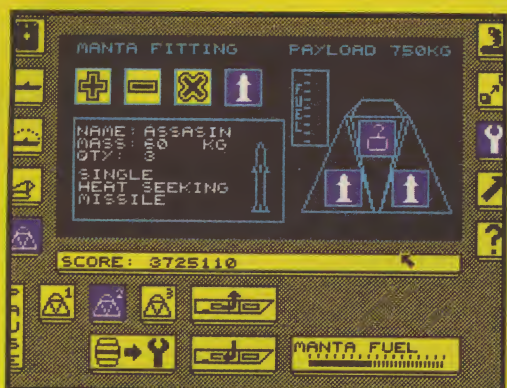
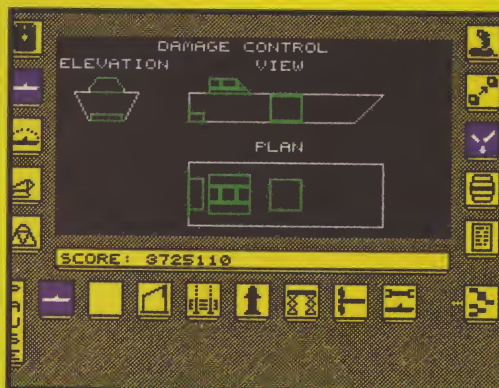
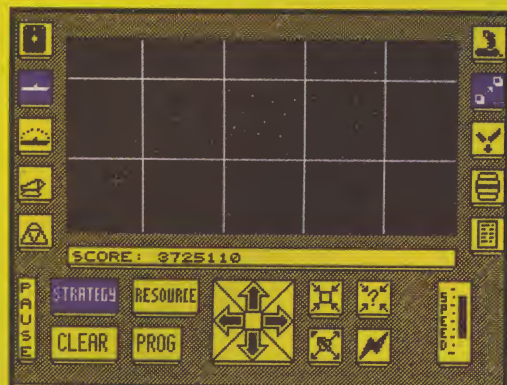
We've never been any good at sound, so Telecom handled this end of things. Sound effects and music take up too much processor-time, and the graphics are much more important in a game like this.



DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

The boys use IBM compatibles to develop their software and then port the code across. Since the system is virtually universal, it's easy to upgrade the system continually.

CARRIER COMMAND



GRAPHICS "There is no mystic art in creating 3D images with a computer. It's all based on maths and there's no great secret trick. The success or otherwise of the exercise depends on how much you manage to optimise the routines. Obviously, simplification of the objects involved makes life easier. You'll get a better frame-rate this way. Of course, you can't oversimplify the objects, or they'd look like nothing on earth.

In a 3D system, virtually every routine, whether it's rotation, movement, perspective representation of polygon filling, needs some pretty complex maths. If a scene requires one hundred multiples (not uncommon) it's no good trying to work with a system which can only handle 2,000 calculations per second. Our Spectrum code can deal with about 25,000.

The design of the objects used in the 3D is influenced heavily by the limitations of the graphic system. It is time consuming for the graphic system to draw a knobby object which can be viewed from any angle. Restricting the angles from which an object can be viewed is a useful alternative to simply cutting down its detail.

Shading and HLR (Hidden Line Removal) take up lots more time than basic wire-frame. Another nightmare.



PROBLEMS

The graphics, obviously were the trickiest things to program. Although we use a basic set of routines for all of our programs, we have to virtually rewrite the code to compensate for quirks of the new game. The first few months of **Carrier's** development consisted of rewriting Starglider routines!



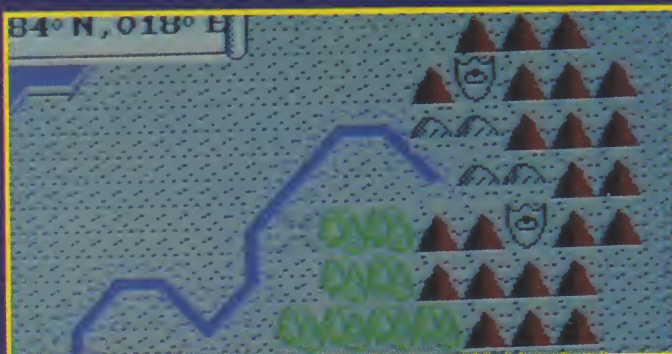
ELIMINATOR



Here's some screenshots of an exceptionally early version of the forthcoming Eliminator from Hewson. It's been written by John Wildsmith (who?) on the Spectrum, although the original versions were put together by John Phillips (Impossaball, Nebulus). It looks like the 3D scrolling follow-the-track shoot-out to us, but we could be wrong.

Streetdate: December
Price: £7.45

WAR IN MIDDLE EARTH



Tolkien Attack! Yus. It's time for another dose (eurgh) of everyone's favourite mythical type, JRR Tolkien. Well, it's not quite as strong a dose as you might think, because while War in The Middle Earth is indeed another in the Lord of the Rings

Hobbit series, it's not really an adventure at all. It's more like a war game, in fact. All window controlled and teams of soldiers. Looks, well, wargamey.

Streetdate: November
Price: £9.99



RETURN OF THE JEDI

Remember all the three-dimensional car/bike race sims that we had a spate of a couple of months back? Indeed, they're still coming (Fire and Forget from Titus is still to appear). Well, Domark have come up with yet another variation for the final part in the Star Wars Trilogy, Return of the Jedi. The screen scrolls diagonally from top right to bottom left and you race your Speeder bike against the Imperial Stormtroopers.

You have to race in and out of trees (well, not literally, but you know what I mean) while dodging fallen logs and remembering never to run down or shoot an Ewok.

Different levels take place over different terrain, some icy, others with higher numbers of trees etc. Eventually the speeds will become too fast and the amount of trees will make you feel as if you're in Nottingham (? - GT) and



you'll end up as a bag of shattered bones after smashing into a big pine. Eurgh.

You will be able to blow away the bad guys by shooting them up

the exhaust - fnar - or running them into obstacles. Sounds like a day out in Kingston to me.

Streetdate: January
Price: £8.95

Xenon, for ages and ages, widely regarded as the best shoot-out on the Atari ST. Which won't be of much interest to you, will it? Well, that's where you're wrong, matey boy, because the topping wizards at Virginmastertronicincorporatedplc have nearly got through converting the little gen for the Spec.

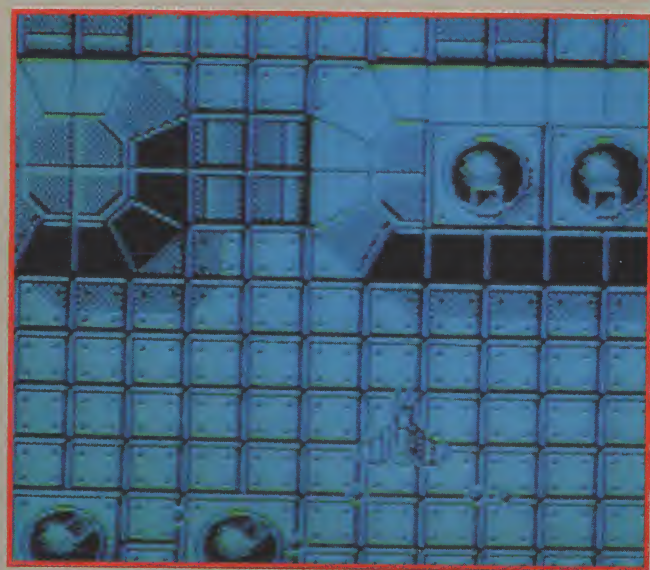
Although it's a straightforward vertical blas, Xenon's graphics really make it stand out. Lots of base relief chrome-like landscapes and stacks of little robots to blow away.

At the end of each level you're faced with a huge and virtually indestructible monster which you've got to shoot in the mouth. Action all the way. Check out the pics and judge for yourself, but it looks as if it could breathe some desperately needed excitement back into the shoot-out formula.

Streetday: December
Price: £9.99

VIEW

NON



HUNDRA

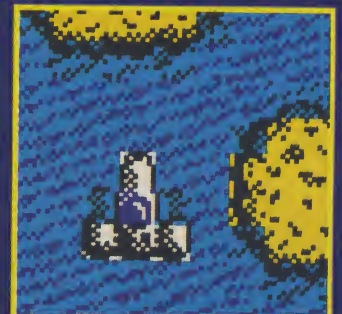
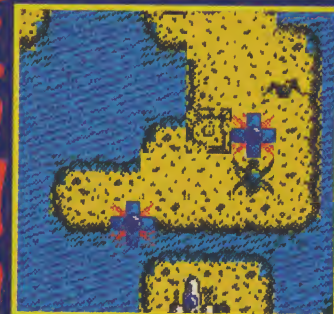


Hundra! Well, yes indeed. This here isn't, as you could easily think, Vixen from Martech. Oh no. It's Hundra from Mastertronic. As you'll be able to tell from the pics, Hundra is a slightly more bulky prehistoric bint than Vixen. Not to much a foxtress as an elephant, if you get my drift.

Still, not a sausage of information other than it's a runny-jumpy-killy affair with loads of colour graphics and – so far as we can judge – some pretty nice fight scenes.

Streetdate: December
Price: £2.99

STAR FARCE



Blam blam blam! Die alien scumfiends! I wonder, every now and again, if there are any aliens left in the world to shoot. I figure hundreds of thousands buy it every day in Speccy games around the country.

Still, Mastertronic have found yet another batch for you to blast in Star Farce, which look uncom-

monly similar to Lightforce which came out last year from FTL (what-ever happened to FTL? Discuss.)

Vertical scrolling, lots of shooting and stacks of colour seem to be the prime ingredients. Review next month.

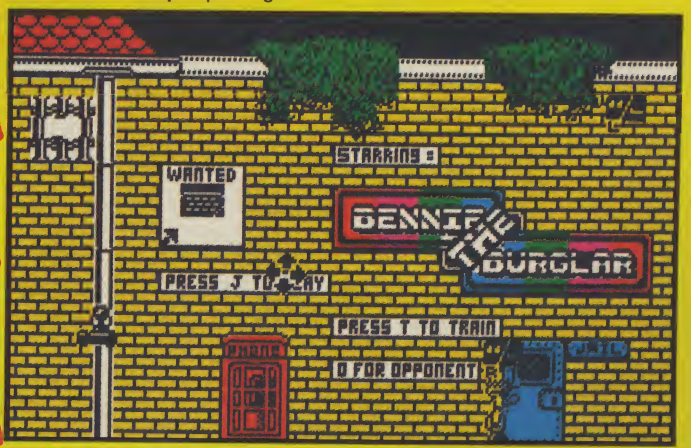
Streetdate: December
Price: £2.99

AND FINALLY

Mystery screenshot time again! Oo-ee-oo! Last month's competition was won in about ten seconds flat and the lucky winner is currently having his stomach pumped free of M+M residue. So we'll have to make it slightly more tricky from now on. Last month's answers were: A) Wec Le Mans B) Exploding Fist

+ C) Barbarian II (tricky one). So. Take a look at this little puzzler and if you are the first to tell us what it's called, we'll send you a Cadbury's Curly Wurly (MmmmmMMMM!)

Ooo and by the way, Grandslam have just got a licence for Dandy. Details and pics next month.



"Holy two-game double-up confusion, Batman!"

"Yes indeed, Robin. This case certainly looks as though it needs some . . . unravelling. Ah, as I thought, the Bat computer tells me that there was another game a few years ago which was also based on our crusading exploits, but it was in the style of some game fiends describe as 3D, and while many thought it was 'fab', some complained that the atmosphere was slightly lacking."

"Damn it! You're right!" (punches fist)

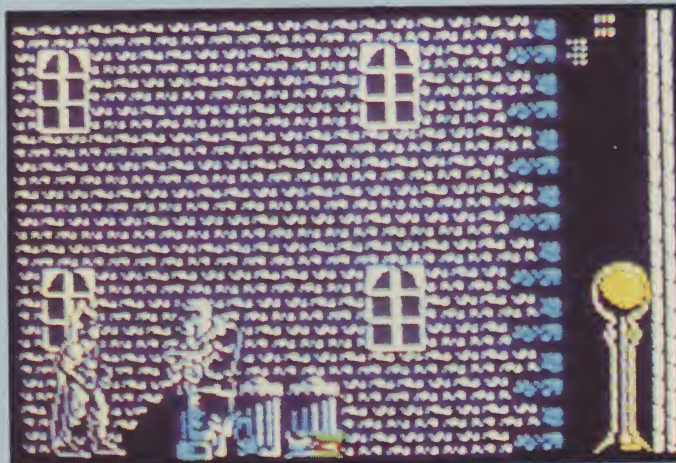
"This seems to be another cunning play by Ocean to cash in on our name. I think we'd better proceed very carefully,

the tape!"

"Holy nightmare! How are they different?"

"I'm glad you asked me that, old sausage (sausage?? — are you sure? GT). One game has us pitted against the evil Penguin and the other features

BAT



old chum. Let's get this tape loading . . ."

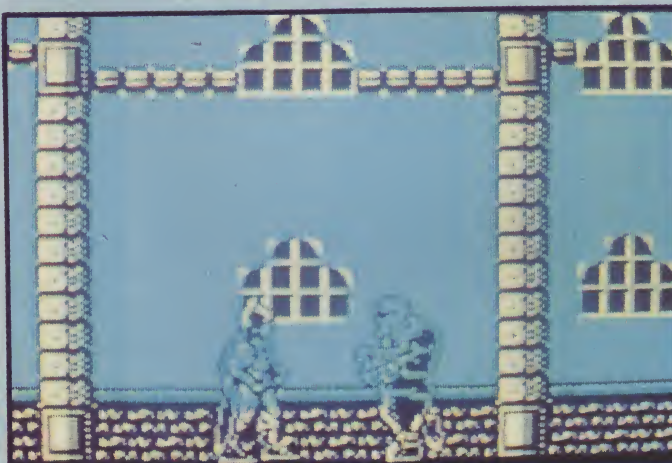
"But how? We've only got our Bat-computer."

"Aha, With my handy Bat-Spectrumemulator." (Produces same from belt) "Now we'll see what those ingenious devils are up to. But wait! What's this? There seem to be two different games — one on each side of

the mad, bad Joker as our foe. Now, take a seat on my knee, and we'll see what we're about."

"Jeepers creepers! Who's that fatso with the funny hat on the screen, Batman?"

"That's me Robin. Actually, I think I've been rather



endearingly adapted to the computer. It seems that, if my Bat-senses aren't deceiving me, I can walk around the screen collect objects and climb things."

"Holy perception! You've got it! But what's that strange boxed-off effect?"

"Looks to me like another example of comic book style, Rob. And cleverly done. As you leave one room, the next frame will overlay like the frames in a comic. Nice touch. Now, we're out of the Batcave and into the harsh world. I smell crime in the air. Which side did we load, old fruit?"

"By Gotham City! It was the Penguin side!"

"As I thought. I think we may find that our old friend the Penguin is about to try and take over the world with an army of robotic penguins and Henchmen in an operation he's running from a fake umbrella factory somewhere in the city."

"Holy Sixtiesexpression! Look out! Here comes a Henchman!"

(Impressive martial-arts fight breaks out) Biffol! sokk! Poww! "That dealt with him, Robin. I seem to be able to fight pretty

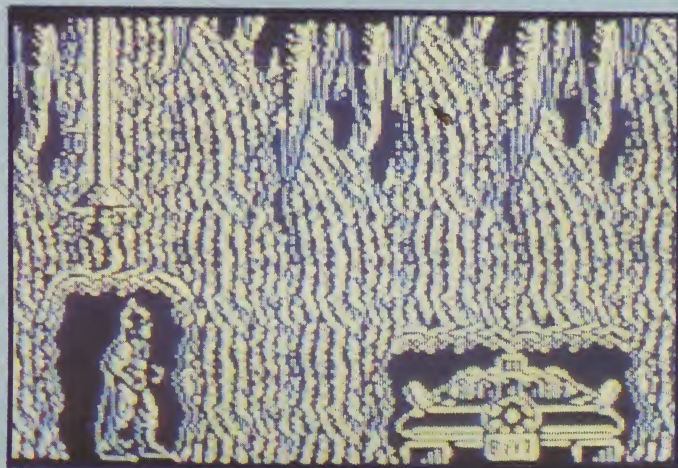
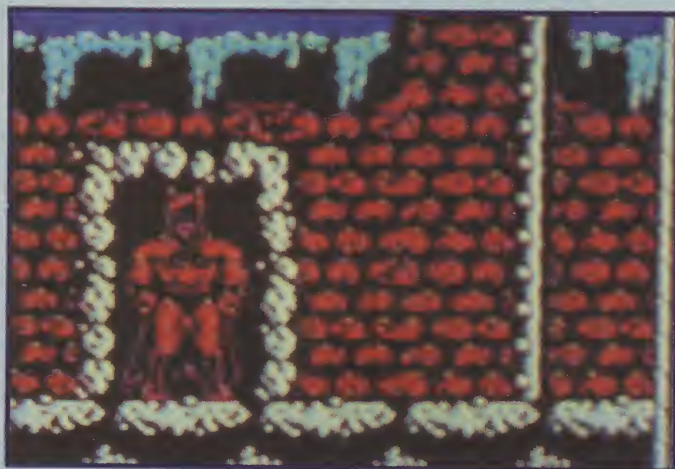
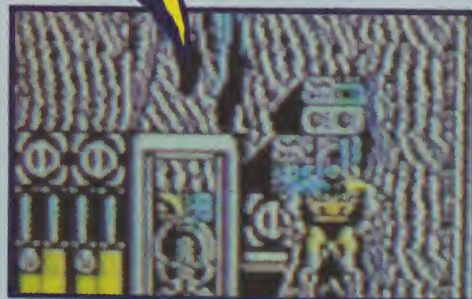


BATMAN

them I fear. There seems to be so much going on, I fear even my Bat-instincts wouldn't tell me where to begin."

"Holy thoughtful programminmg! So what's our Bat-verdict?"

"I think it's a damned fine game, Robin. These graphics



well, and there are lots of moves available. I can even use the Batarang if I can find it."

"How in the name of Commissioner Gordon do you handle objects in this thing, Batty?"

"By using this cleverly designed Object-handling screen, Robin. I can highlight the objects I want to use — assuming I've found them in the very large play area — and then, while playing, I simply press the Use Item key. I can then pick locks, disguise myself, find door passes and even have something to eat."

"Holy variety! So there's lots to do. How difficult is the mission looking, though?"

"Pretty tough, I'm afraid, old pomegranite. Gotham City is puzzling, and we don't have use of the Batmobile, so we'd better make a map. Here take this pen and paper..."

"Holy Swizz! I always have to make the maps!"

"I can't be bothered with such trifles, Robin. My energy level is getting low, as are the other two gauges which I don't understand the nature of. Pay attention to the graphics. Too much attribute clash for my

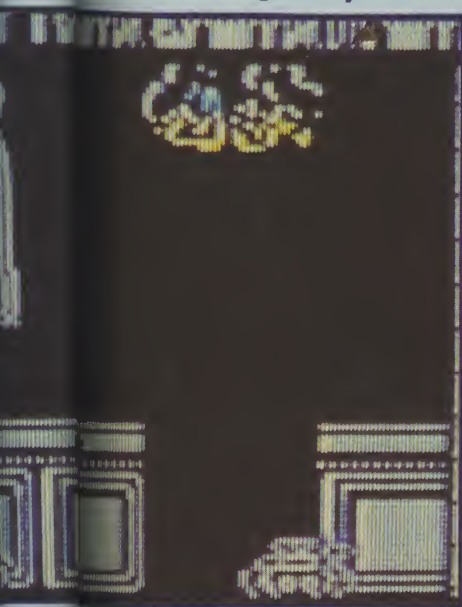
liking, but on the whole they look good enough to me."

"And there are clues at the top of the screen to help us know when and where to use certain items."

"A good job, my caped suzette, because things would be a bit too mysterious without

make the action clear and attractive and both games use different map areas and there are different sets of bad guys to deal with. It also has a sense of humour, which makes a change from all this sombre **Dark Knight** malarky I've had to deal with recently. I'd advise the kids to buy it."

"Holy endorsement!"
"Indeed."■



ARCADE
★
REVIEW

FAX BOX
BATMAN Label: **Ocean** Author: **Joffa**
Smith (SFX) Price: **£7.95** Memory: **48K/**
128K Joystick: various

GRAPHICS	SOUND
80	70
PLAYABILITY	LAST ABILITY
80	85

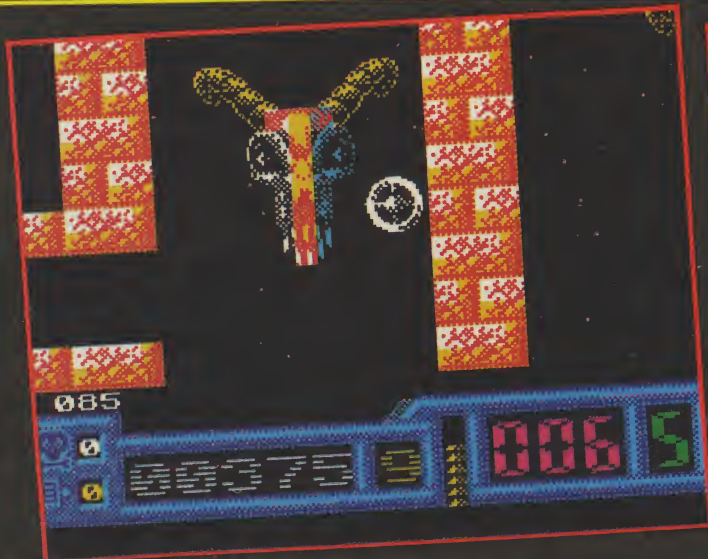
Bam! First-class Batman romp scenario. More like the TV series than the comics

Reviewer: *Jim Douglas*

OVERALL **90**

10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90

NETHERWORLD



Eek! What a way to die! Stuck in an infernal alien universe with no way out other than to buy your way to freedom.

You begin on one of three start levels at various points around the 10 levels. Each level is a large, multi-scrolling area of walls and nasties. The basic idea is to collect all the diamonds that are scattered about on each of the levels to gain access to the next. Of course, it goes without saying, each screen gets progressively harder (then why did you say it? - GT).

Just to make the game that little bit more difficult, you are given an amazingly short time limit in which to get around and collect all the gems on each level. Luckily it is possible to find hour-glasses that top your time back up to maximum.

Some of the diamonds are hidden in some pretty obscure places. Some groups are completely surrounded by what seems to be an impenetrable wall.



Or is it? Maybe not. Bounce around it for a bit and sure enough, one of the blocks is a cleverly projected hologram, carefully constructed to look like the real thing.

Your ship is a small, rotating hoop-like affair, that can zip in and out of the maze of platforms quite quickly, which it needs to be able to do, what with the short time limit and the nasties.

The aliens consist of two types. Free roamers, that bounce all over the shop, and cause some real painful damage to your craft. These are produced by alien generators that can be found from the mid-levels onward.

The other type of nasty is the demon. These rotten creatures sit on ledges next to large supplies of gems, and stop you by just chucking hundreds of bubbles at you.

Luckily, these can be shot down and some of the bubbles leave lots of special toys for you to play with. These range from extra points to two very destructive weapons. One weapon gives you the power to destroy demons on contact. The other is a brick smasher to help you break through games.

Netherworld seems to be 10 levels of the same old thing. There doesn't seem to be enough game in there to warrant any form of long term playing.

The graphics are quite nice and detailed. I particularly like the huge skulls on one of the later levels. Animation is quite fluent, though the scrolling is more than a little jerky.

Sound is confined to well within the Spectrum's limits, but funnily enough, there is some mega-fab 128K music.

A slightly disappointing conversion of the not-so-hot Commodore 64 game.



ARCADE
★
REVIEW

FAX BOX

NETHERWORLD Label: Hewson Author: Chris Wood Price: £7.95 Memory: 48K/128K Joystick: various

GRAPHICS	SOUND
83	72
PLAYABILITY	LAST ABILITY
43	68

A sad conversion from the Commie. Hours of sheer boredom guaranteed

OVERALL
69



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First it was booklets. Then it was cassettes. Then we had two cassettes. Now Gremlin, fount of all knowledge and wisdom, predicts **WHAT MAGAZINES WILL BE STICKING ON THEIR COVERS NEXT YEAR.**

January. SPLOSHHH! magazine gives away a free full-price game, AHH-TYPE. Due to legal action by the copy-right holders, everyone buying that issue is sentenced to ten years in prison.

February. THE WHINE magazine gives away a piece of software which turns your Spectrum into an Amiga. Thousands complain that they'd rather have their Spectrum back.

March. ARSE! magazine gives away an Amiga on the cover. Every copy falls off the shelf and all the Amigas are smashed beyond repair.

April. YOUR COMMODORE sticks an Afterburner coin-op on every copy. Due to the cost only three copies are printed that month.

May. COMMUTER AND IDIOT GAMES has a free member of staff stapled to each copy. Many returns.

June. Our very own **SU** gives away a free Caribbean island (stuck in the centrefold).

July ... things get REALLY silly.

LAST MONTH'S COMP



Much better this month. Gremlin doesn't know if it's a phase of the moon of what but something about the Nigel Mansell picture brought out the worst in everyone ... or the best maybe. There were a lot of entries that suggest Nigel had superglued the cup to his head (yawn yawn) and not a few mentioning personal hygiene of which perhaps the most direct was the brutal "So much for Denim - my armpits stink" from Stephen Browne - very tasteful Stephen. Not a few people's entries began "I'm a little teapot short and stout ..." but few of them were funny.

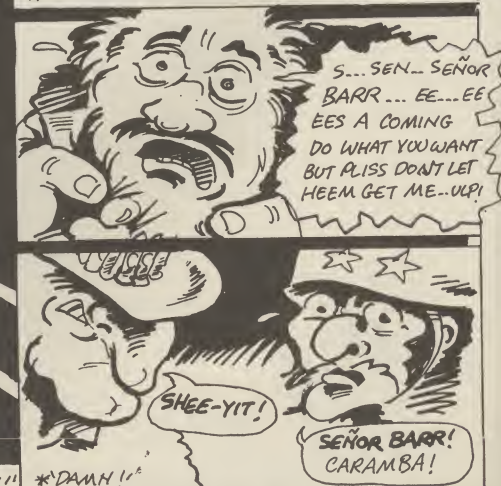
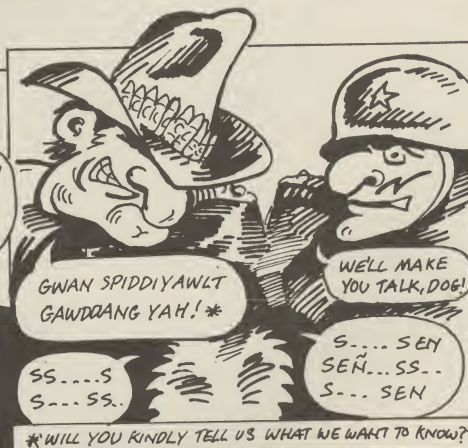
Winner by complete office agreement was this piece of bizarre thinking from Craig Burnett "What do you think Alain? It's either this one or the blue one with no handles". Craig we're proud to have you as a reader. We'll even send you some money at some point.

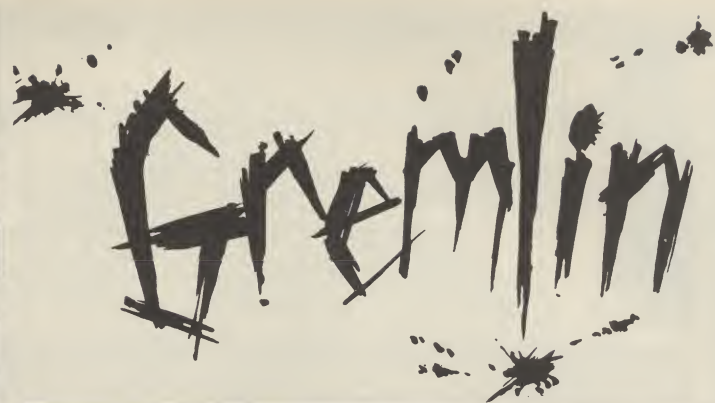
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Caption Competition 24

Look at this marvellous picture of the Darlings – stars of Network TV and owners/runners/publicisers of Code-masters. Why is David in the air? What are the others thinking or saying? Does the fact that they are in Düsseldorf make a difference? I think we should be told. Twenty of your English pounds to the winner.

GREMLIN'S JOKE

Q What's the difference between a Duck?

A One of its legs were both the same.

Look it helps if you know the duck involved or if you'd seen its legs. Well I think it's very funny actually and you probably just don't understand it.

(Look I'm not going to bother stealing YS's reader's jokes idea if this is the best you can come up with – GT)

Oh forget it.

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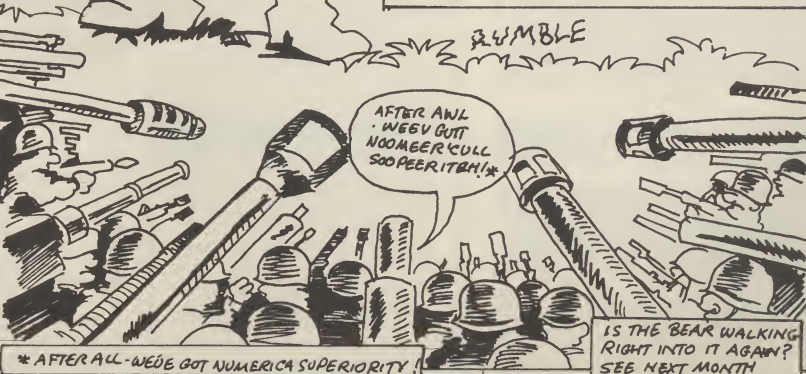
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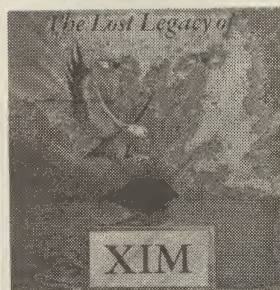
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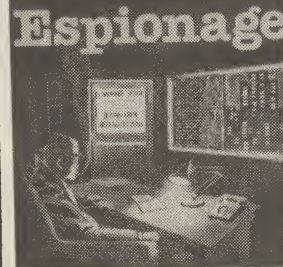
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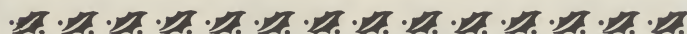
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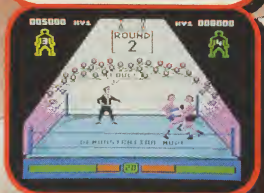


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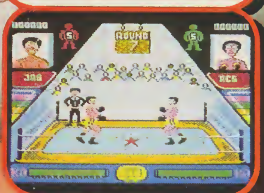
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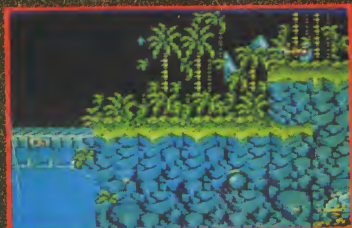
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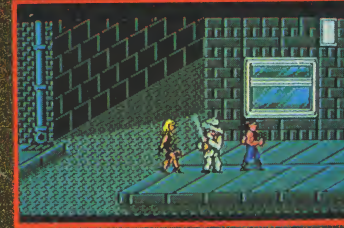
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